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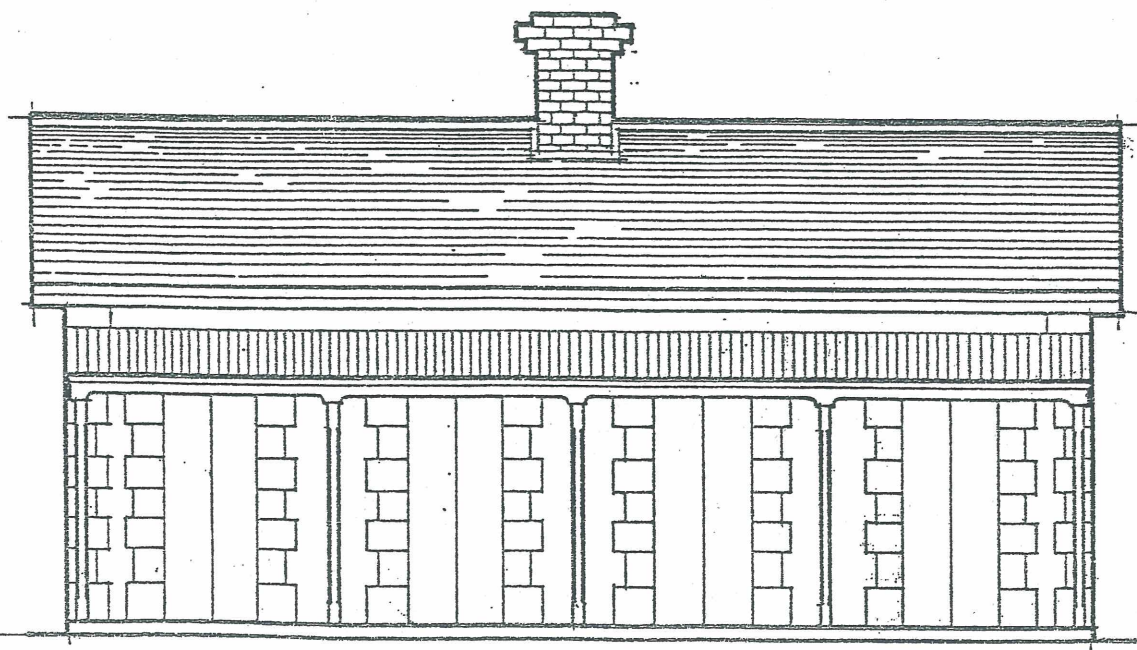
Copy for Cr. Janine Booth

Please make a copy for Trevor Westmore
and forward to him as well. Thanks

CRESWICK GOLD OFFICE

CONSERVATION ANALYSIS and EXISTING CONDITIONS SURVEY

Nigel Lewis and Associates
1988



CRESWICK GOLD OFFICE
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March 1988

for the
Historic Buildings Council

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INTRODUCTION

This report was commissioned by the Historic Buildings Council on 12 April 1987 in accordance with a study brief dated 5 March 1987 (see Appendix One). The building under study is the former Creswick Gold Office, located at the rear of the Creswick Mechanics Institute, Albert Street, Creswick (figures 1 to 7). This building was included on the Register of Historic Buildings on 9 February 1985.

This study has been undertaken within accepted guidelines for Conservation Analysis studies. The report firstly details the history of the Creswick Gold Office (Section 1.0), then examines the physical fabric of the building (including an existing conditions survey - Section 2.0 and Appendix Three) and concludes the analysis by an examination of comparable buildings. These three sources - documentary, physical and comparative - are brought together in Section 4.0 by a succinct 'Statement of Significance'. This statement summarises all relevant points and should be used as the basis for any future decisions about the place.

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1.0 HISTORY OF CRESWICK GOLD OFFICE

1.1 Proposals for a Gold Office 1857

Tenders for the erection of a 'gold office at Creswick's Creek' were advertised in the Victoria Government Gazette of 6 October 1857 to be opened on 13 October. (1) Plans had been prepared by the Public Works Department and the extant sheet of drawings was initialled 'C.G.R.' in September 1857 (figure 8). (2) C.G. Ross had only joined the Public Works Department as draftsman on 17 September 1857 and this was possibly his first executed drawing. (3)

The site for the gold office was not stated explicitly, but it can be inferred from a letter dated 13 October 1857 that the building was intended for the Commissioner's Camp, at that date located north of the creek (figure 9). The letter, from M.J. O'Connor, Chairman of Creswick Commercial Club, to the President of the Board of Land and Works, urged the government to site the new building in Albert Street, thus consolidating on the main commercial centre of Creswick.

Sir, In compliance with a request embodied in a motion adopted (last evening) at a meeting of the Commercial Club, I beg to suggest that the new Gold Office be erected on the land adjoining the Post Office, Police and Local Courts. The importance of selecting the above site will be apparent, when I inform you that the present Gold Office is situated at the camp, nearly a mile distant and reached by a lonesome road across a flat. The objection that the Police Station is not in the township could be overcome, by moving the foot force whose quarters are composed of small corrugated iron buildings. And the lock-up is a mere log hut. (4)

District Surveyor John Hamblin Taylor sought advice from Charles Sherard, the Resident Warden at Ballarat, regarding the change of site. Sherard forwarded the views of his warden at Creswick, Gilbert Amos, to Taylor and it was critical of the proposal.

I consider that such a step would be most inconvenient entailing not only very considerable expense in the removal of a portion of the police necessary for the purposes of a guard; but also necessitating a considerable increase in the police force. The camp is situated on the boundary of the township and is approached by a recently constructed Government road and is much better adapted for the proposal of a Gold Office than the Township and is more central. (5)

Taylor, in forwarding the letter to the President of the Board of Land and Works (and his concurrence within its opinion), also stressed the need to concentrate Government offices in out-

districts. 'I do not see in what manner the public would benefit by the proposition' he wrote, 'as the miner would as conveniently walk to the Camp with his gold as to the township'. (6) On 28 October 1857, the Acting Surveyor General authorised a letter conveying the official refusal of the request to disappointed members of the Commercial Club. (7)

Following this examination of alternative sites (and perhaps as a result of the examination) erection of the new gold office at Creswick was postponed.

1.2 Construction of the Gold Office 1858-59

The next reference to the Creswick Gold Office came in a tender notice issued by the Public Works Office at Melbourne on 29 September 1858 advising tenders would now be received until 15 October 1858, just over twelve months after the original tender closed. (8) The plans and specifications were forwarded from the Public Works Office to the Warden at Creswick on 30 September 1858, presumably for the benefit of local contractors. (9) The tender of John Stabb (£306 17s) was accepted on 15 October 1858 and the money charged against the treasurer's vote of £1444 16s 8d (No. 88) for erection of Gold Office 'at various places'. (10)

A site in the commercial centre of Creswick had been purchased from Joseph (or Josuha?) Soares prior to the calling of tenders and was presumably intended for Government buildings. The site of 3 roods 12 perches [0.33 ha] (allotments 2 and 3 in section 11) on the south west corner of Albert Street and Raglan Street had been surveyed in 1854 as part of the first township survey (figure 9) and was purchased from the Crown by John Hall and Thomas Honar (figure 10). (11) Hall and his son-in-law Honar kept a store at Dead Man's Gully near Hard Hills and Hall was also said to have 'built an hotel near the present Post Office'. (12) This land was subsequently sold to Soares and then conveyed to the Crown. The Commercial Club had been seeking land to be reserved closer to the township for government buildings and, shortly before the calling of tenders for the gold office, had again written urging the removal of the Police buildings from the camp to the more central site acquired from Soares. (13)

Construction of the gold office had not apparently commenced by November 1858. In that month the Public Works Department wrote to the Warden at Creswick requesting him to exercise care when showing the site to the contractor to ensure that sufficient land should be left on which to erect 'the Police buildings ... should it be considered to remove them from their present position'. (14) The Public Works Department received a letter from the Gold Receiver on 12 January 1859 reporting 'work of the gold office, Creswick' and presumably this indicated a start had been made on construction of the present building. (15)

Tenders for a 'Guard Room for Treasury, at Creswick' were called by the Public Works Office at Melbourne in March 1859 with

Comments on locations of P.O. and Telegraph Office.

The marked paragraph on page 4 is highly misleading because it assumes that the P.O. and Telegraph Office were always in one building, and at the present site.

The P.O. was opened in 1854. It has been at 3 locations:

- (i) in Honor's Hotel, which stood on same site as present P.O.
- (ii) In the "government offices" lower down Albert Street, near the British Hotel
- (iii) The present P.O. was opened in July 1862, incorporating the Telegraph office.

The original "Telegraph Station" was opened August 1859 on the site of the present Bowling Green, and that is what Parso is objecting to in the item quoted from the Advertiser.

In April 1860 the government was contemplating amalgamating the P.O. and the Telegraph Office. This was achieved in July 1862 (see above).

The old Telegraph Station was acquired by the Mechanics Institute, which operated there till 1877 when it moved into ^{part of} the new Town Hall as the "Free Library".

tenders to be returned by 29 March. (15) Isaac Meadows of Talbot was the successful tenderer of the two offers submitted and his price of £222 was accepted on 29 March 1859. (17) Drawings for this building have not been located although later plans showed the Guard Room as a detached structure, located behind the gold office (figure 11 and 12). (18)

Construction of the gold office was possibly substantially completed by 14 August 1859 when the Public Works Department wrote to the Gold Receiver at Creswick forwarding

a specification for the erection of shutters to the windows of the Gold Office, Creswick and to request you will obtain and forward two or three tenders in accordance therewith to this office. The tenders may also include the cupboard &c also requested. (19)

Tenders were duly forwarded on 7 May 1859 and one of £58 was approved on 23 May. This comprised 4 pairs of shutters (71s 10d each) and 2 cupboards (£12). (20)

1.3 Construction of adjacent public buildings

The 1854 survey by Robert Harvey (figure 9) made no provision for a government block as the Commissioners Camp was at that date the scene of all government owned buildings and presumably adequate for the needs of the diggers. Three extra sections (surveyed in 1854) were included in a lithographed plan of April 1857 (21) (figure 10) yet still no government block was felt necessary. Agitation from the Commercial Club commenced about this time and their letter to the President of Land and Works of 13 October 1857 inferred that 'Post Office, Police and Local Courts' were located in the commercial section of the town (presumably Albert Street). (22) These were certainly not the present buildings but possibly leased premises or early buildings now demolished.

The site of the present government buildings was purchased from Soares by late 1858 and the gold office was the first government building erected upon the land. (23) The adjacent Post and Telegraph Office had been commenced by May 1858 and telegraphic communication was established with Melbourne on 1 August 1858. (24) The land on the corner of Albert Street and Raglan Street had apparently been occupied by local Timber Merchant Pasco and the Creswick Advertiser found plenty to criticise regarding the siting of the new government buildings.

*See notes
opposite
correcting
this
information*

[The electric telegraph station] ... is in the course of erection by the contractor, on a portion of the premises held for such a length of time by Mr. Pasco, the Timber Merchant. Why this particular spot should have been selected we cannot understand. As far as regards the convenience of the inhabitants, there would be little difference if the station were placed on one of the unsold and unoccupied allotments near Davies's Store,

and the risk of being unapproachable during the floods which occasionally happen would be absent on a par with the present spot. Somehow or other the Government Surveyors are almost always making mistakes in their work in this neighbourhood. They commenced wrongly in laying out the streets of our township, and from that time it appears to be more the results of accident than design when they go on the right track ... In the present instance, we find an apparently wanton injury inflicted on an old resident, whilst the trading community, from the site chosen are invited to use it as little as possible. (25)

Drawings for the lock-up were prepared by the Public Works Department and initialled 'A.T.S.' [Alfred T. Snow] on 8 November 1859 and tenders for a 'stone lock-up' were to be returned by 6 December 1859. (26) Tenders for the Court House were to be returned by 15 November 1859 and both buildings were constructed to the north of the new Gold Office. (27)

Additional land between Raglan Street and Victoria Street was surveyed in September 1860 for public buildings. John Taylor commented that 'it is the nearest eligible site to the centre of the Township and is suitable for the purpose required'. This was used for State School No.122 opened in October 1874. (28)

1.4 Subsequent history of the Creswick Gold Office (1859 to date)

In the absence of other known records, the Gold Office at Creswick was probably well suited to its purpose although by the late 1880s deep lead mines dominated the local mining scene and the day of the small individual miner were long gone.

The Borough of Creswick sought a site for 'Free Library purposes' in 1888 and in lobbying the local member, Thomas Cooper MLA, provided a plan showing the government buildings at Creswick (figure 11). (29) The site sought (approximately 55' x 90') contained the gold office, guard room and water closet, by that date all apparently little used. [The adjacent Post Office was labelled Sub-treasury and probably fulfilled the requirements of a gold office.] Both gold office and guard room were shown with verandahs, and a survey by John Lynch Jnr on 30 October 1888 indicated the guard room was constructed of brick (figure 12). (30) No objection was raised to use of the site for a Free Library, although in response to a request from the Chief Commissioner of Police, the Borough of Creswick agreed to retain an access path between the Gold Office and Post Office to allow prisoners to be marched off to the lock-up from Albert Street. (31) The Gold Office and guard room was purchased by the Borough of Creswick and the site was temporarily reserved as a site for a free library by an Order in Council on 15 January 1889. (32) By May 1892 The Town Clerk could report that

In front of the old building, a new building with brick walls on blue stone foundations, and iron roof has been erected, comprising Free Reading Room 30 ft. by 18 ft. and Library or Book Room measuring 24 feet by 25 feet with porch 9 x 7 taken off the latter. The cost of the new erection including drainage &c amounts to £580. These rooms have been nicely furnished with book shelves reading desks and tables &c and are now open to the public. (33)

The site (17 1/2 perches) was presumably reserved by an Order in Council of 20 March 1893 (34) and on 30 March 1908 'The Creswick Mechanics' Institute and Free Library' was registered under the Companies Act 1890 as a limited company. (35)

2.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS SURVEY AND PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1 Existing Conditions

This section of the report should be read in conjunction with the drawings in Appendix Three. These drawings show, in diagrammatic form, the existing conditions of the building. A grey tone has been placed on the measured drawings to indicate damage, alteration or other loss of integrity. This is also accompanied by a series of numbered captions which relate to specific items on the drawing. [It should be noted that this material goes beyond the normal requirements of a conservation analysis and has been included in the knowledge that conservation work is soon to be undertaken on this building.]

2.2 Physical Analysis

This section briefly highlights those alterations or other losses of integrity which may impinge on the cultural significance of the building.

Variation from the original drawings (1858-59)

- Rear door not constructed

Works undertaken whilst still in use as gold office or prior to construction of the Mechanics Institute (1859-92)

- Possible installation of timber shelving in north room

Alterations at the time of construction of Mechanics Institute (1892).

- Probable demolition of verandah and construction of brick retaining wall along front elevation
- Possible installation of window in north room (attribution of date due to pressed red bricks and detailing of render; may be of slightly earlier or later date)
- Possible demolition of Guard House, may have been of slightly later date but unlikely to have been earlier

Other works (1892-present)

- Probable replacement of slate roof with corrugated iron. [Specific evidence of slate not located but using the original drawing and comparative analysis slate seems a likely roof covering for a Public Works Department building of the mid-nineteenth century.]
- New W.C erected (1950s or 60s?)
- General deterioration of fabric (see Section 2.1 and Appendix Three for precise details)

Summary

In general, although the building is in a deteriorated condition, it still retains most of the original fabric (with the notable exception of the verandah). The general decay has not seriously lowered the significance of the building and the new structures on the site (Mechanics Institute and W.C.) do not abut the building. When compared with other gold offices this building is still relatively intact (see Section 3.2).

3.0 ANALYSIS

3.1 Use of the Creswick Gold Office

John Fisher was appointed Gold Receiver at Creswick on 29 July 1858, replacing G.W. Fitzsimmons. Fisher was temporarily replaced by Fitzsimmons from 5 July 1858, but was the major government officer at Creswick to use the Gold Office. Fisher was appointed Receiver and Paymaster at Creswick from 1 January 1860. (1)

In March 1858, 'receivers and paymasters' were located in the goldfield towns of Castlemaine, Sandhurst, Ballarat, Maryborough, Beechworth, Ararat, Creswick, Pleasant Creek [Stawell], Raglan [Beaufort], Amherst, Dunolly, Maldon, Heathcote, Avoca, Yackandandah, Buckland, Blackwood and Rushworth. (2) The term 'gold office' seems to have been interchangeable with 'sub-treasury' or 'receipt and pay office'.

In 1859 'gold receivers' were stationed at Indigo, Rushworth, Kilmore, Amherst, Melbourne, Creswick, Pleasant Creek [Stawell], Raglan [Beaufort], Back Creek [Talbot], Maldon, Avoca and Dunolly with acting gold receivers at Blackwood and Heathcote. The larger goldfields of Castlemaine, Sandhurst, Maryborough, Beechworth, Ballarat and Ararat all had a 'reciever and paymaster' rather than a gold receiver. (3)

By 1862 the term 'gold receiver' was generally discontinued in official statistics and all such officers (with the exception of the gold receiver at Melbourne and the 'gold receiver and collector of imposts' at Jordan) were known as 'receiver and paymaster'. By this date Landsborough, Inglewood and Jordan also had seen appointment of an appropriate officer. (4)

The gold office at Creswick was a collection point for the regular gold escort which the Victorian Government provided for the gold fields. From 15 March 1859 the escort left Ballarat on alternate Mondays at 9 30 am and after calling at Clunes reached Creswick at 4 pm. Here the escort paused until 10 am on the following Tuesday morning before departing for Ballarat. A weekly service was then provided from Ballarat to the Melbourne Gold Office. (5)

Escort fees for gold were levied at a rate of 6d per oz (or 1s from the Ovens goldfield) and a charge of 1d per week was levied for custody of gold. (6) These two duties presumably formed the major responsibility of the gold reciever at Creswick and other small gold offices.

Licences for publicans, spirit merchants, brewers, distillers, auctioneers, confectioners and refreshments were also sold by Receipt and Pay Offices, which in a smaller town may have been sold by the Postmaster. (7) In April 1859, the Chief Secretary authorised Collectors of Imposts to receive payments under the

Chinese Emigration Act (22 Vic 80). These collectors comprised Wardens, Chinese Protectors, Sub-Treasurers, Gold Receivers, Police Magistrates and Clerks of Petty Sessions (8), thus broadening the scope of duties and use of the Gold Office at Creswick. In this way the Treasury in Melbourne received £341,163 13s 8d for the year ending 30 June 1858 and £307,957 9s 4d for the year ending 30 June 1859. This accounted for almost 10% of colonial revenue and was exceeded only by 'import duty on spirits' and 'sale of public land'. (9)

The Goldfields Amending Act 1855 (drafted in the wake of the Eureka uprising) had discontinued the hated 'miners licence' and instead introduced a 'miners right' with a duty or tax on the export of gold. This was initially levied at a rate of 2s 6d per oz. and reduced to 2s per oz in 1862. The tax was paid on sale of the gold although the mechanism for collection has not been ascertained it is possible that it involved the various gold receivers.

3.2 Comparable Gold Offices

This section examines the history of small gold offices comparable in style and date of erection with that at Creswick. In this section buildings are arranged in alphabetical order by original name of location.

The title 'Gold Office', 'Sub-Treasury' and 'Receipt and Pay Office' appear to have been virtually interchangeable in the 1850s and 60s. In January 1859, for instance, the Melbourne Treasury referred to both the 'Sub-Treasury, Maryborough' and the 'Receipt and Pay Office, Maryborough' in the same notice presumably speaking of the same building. (10)

SUB-TREASURY, ARARAT

This building was erected in 1858 at the Police Camp in Ararat, despite the survey of a new public precinct in that year. The contractor was Amos and Co. with a contract price of 890. The neighbouring Post Office was erected in 1861-62 and apparently a communicating door linked the two buildings. The sub-treasury was extended in 1865 and by 1876 the building has almost trebled in size. In 1926-27 the Post Office plan was extensively reorganised and a double storey addition was added behind the sub-treasury. The building complex remains substantially intact from the 1926-27 alterations (figures 13 and 14). (11)

GOLD OFFICE, AVOCA

Contract for this building was approved on 28 May 1858 (£406 6s 8d) and contracts for additions were let in 1860 (£300) and 1861 (£264 10s). The building was demolished in late 1975 (figure 15). (12)

GOLD OFFICE, BACK CREEK (TALBOT)

The drawing for this building (dated 8 May 1859) indicates it was intended for erection at Amherst, but with the spectacular growth of Back Creek (following the rush to Scandinavian Lead early in 1859) it was eventually erected on Back Creek Flat (figure 16). The Government justified this decision to angry Amherst councillors by pointing out that the building (at rival Back Creek) was still within the Borough of Amherst. The contract was undertaken by local builder Isaac Meadows (£590 9s 6d) and his contract was signed on 13 June 1859. A kitchen, servants room, stable and shed were erected privately by the sub-treasurer and purchased by the government for £300 in 1862. The buildings were replaced by a larger sub-treasury in 1867 and the gold office was demolished c.1910. (13)

TREASURY, BALLARAT

This building was apparently erected in 1856. It was situated in Lydiard Street, possibly on the Police Camp. By 1887, when pictured in Withers' History of Ballarat it was used as the Mining Registrar's office (figure 17). The building is now demolished. (14)

SUB-TREASURY, BEECHWORTH

This building was erected during 1857 at a cost of £564 17s 3d. In 1861, £525 was expended on additions to the sub-treasury, presumably erection of a rear wing. The building, in Ford Street, is currently used as a Police Station (figure 18). (15)

TREASURY, DAYLESFORD

A drawing for the 'Treasury Building' was prepared in May 1863 by Gustav Joachamini (figure 19). In 1864 a contract was let for 'comp[letion] of Pay & Receipt Off[ice]' with Clayfield Bros. for £371, probably indicating erection of this building. The building still survives (albeit much altered) as a private residence (17 Camp Street) as part of the court house, police residence and lock-up complex. (16)

GOLD OFFICE, DUNOLLY

A drawing for this building was executed by 'HAW' in 1859 (figure 20). Tenders were to be submitted by 31 May 1859 and on 17 June 1859 the offer of Wood and Millar (£587 8s) was accepted. This was cancelled and eventually a contract awarded to Isaac Meadows (£599 9s 9d). Drawings of rear extensions were prepared in July 1860 and a contract was let in 1860 for additions (£284). The buildings still stands although now much altered from its original form. (17)

SUB-TREASURY, MARYBOROUGH

This building was erected in 1857 at a cost of £650. A contract for additions, presumably the rear wing, was let in 1860 for £405 as the early photograph shows two gabled wings (figure 21). Tenders for a 'Guard room, Treasury, Maryborough' were to be returned by 23 April 1858 and contract with Smith and Scott was approved on 26 April 1858 for £275 (figure 22). The building has apparently been demolished. (18)

GOLD OFFICE, PLEASANT CREEK (STAWELL)

The 1857 drawing for the gold office at Creswick (figure 8) was also used apparently at Pleasant Creek as the title - 'PLEASANT CREEK' - is appended in pencil. Annotations show an elongated building of 3 rooms instead of two with the note 'N.B. The portions drawn in pencil show the additional room at Pleasant Creek - if required'. An ink annotation shows additional rear rooms of unknown date and possibly never built. Sayers recalls the existence of a mud brick treasury in Commercial Street and the erection of the 'Creswick-style' building in 1858 at a cost of £497. Tenders for this latter building were to be returned by 26 February 1858 and the contract with A. Amos and Co. received approval on 6 March 1858. The building is thought to have been demolished. (19)

3.3 Architectural analysis

Two basic sub-styles were adopted for gold offices and sub-treasuries erected by the Public Works Department during the late 1850s. These were the Creswick sub-style and the Beechworth sub-style (so named after the first or most prominent example).

The Beechworth formula (repeated at Ballarat, Ararat, Maryborough, Back Creek and Dunolly) had two main rooms (separated by an internal wall with fire place) and approached by the public from a projecting enclosed porch. This was centrally placed and covered by a hipped roof which extended the length of the facade to form small end verandahs. Dunolly was an exception and only had a simple skillion roof over the public entrance. [The term entrance - used on architects drawings - was a misnomer as the public gained access only to windows in front of the official's counter.] The Ballarat Treasury, if we can accept Withers' date of 1856, was the first of this sub-style.

The Creswick sub-style (and its companion at Pleasant Creek) dispensed with the enclosed 'public entrance' and instead provided only a roofed verandah. The window and counter arrangement was instead replaced by a set of french doors which presumably allowed members of the public to enter the building, or at least part of it. The Daylesford Treasury was closer in design to the Creswick model than the Beechworth sub-style as it had no enclosed porch.

Its form and detailing, however, set it apart from the others. The gold office at Avoca was also closer to Creswick than Beechworth for the same reasons as Daylesford. However, at Avoca the building was much extended and is now demolished.

Many of the buildings erected for Mining Wardens, Chinese Protectors, Gold Receivers, Sub-treasurers or Receipt and Pay Officers differed little in basic plan from the Creswick sub-style gold offices. Drawings of Warden's Offices at Dunolly (figure 23), Avoca, St Arnaud, Smythes Creek and Beechworth (all 1859) indicate many similarities. Due to their historical usage for a different arm of government (compared to gold offices) such buildings have not been assessed in detail for comparative purposes.

Other gold offices were erected prior to the Creswick-Beechworth group and many were erected after. Research has indicated the existence of at least 74 sub-treasuries or gold offices (20) although as far as is known, none related closely in design to that group. Some, like Redbank (1860) were portable buildings and others (for example, Talbot - 1867) were larger structures incorporating a residence for the sub-treasurer and strongroom. The strongroom, although often incorporated in the structure, was not included as a separate area at Creswick and presumably a portable safe served this purpose.

The gold offices or sub-treasuries (of all styles) that are known to survive include the following.

Beechworth (1857)
Creswick (1857-58)
Ararat (1858)
Dunolly (1859)
Daylesford (1863-64)
Talbot (1866-67)

[Other later treasury buildings may survive but these have not been specifically researched as part of this study.]

Of these buildings the Beechworth and Creswick offices are the most intact examples of the early style of gold office. The significance is not greatly diminished by the relatively early disuse of the building as a gold office and subsequent modification due to construction of the Mechanics Institute building. This change demonstrates a phase of consolidation in the district and is a reminder of the transition from small scale alluvial mining (with its emphasis on secure storage and escort of small parcels of gold for individuals and small parties) to later deep lead mining (which was undertaken by larger companies not dependant on constant storage of small parcels of gold).

The Treasury at Melbourne (1857-62?) by J.J.Clark is related to these smaller branches or sub-treasuries and forms a crucial historical link with the movement and sale of gold in colonial Victoria.

4.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former Creswick Gold office is significant:

- as one of the earliest extant gold offices in Victoria and amongst only a very small number of surviving gold offices and sub-treasuries;
- as the earliest government building erected in the commercial area of Creswick, in a precinct now occupied by a fine and substantially intact collection of contemporary government buildings;
- as the earliest remaining public building in the Creswick district;
- as an evocative reminder of the early local gold mining industry, the predominant theme in the development of the township;
- architecturally for its simple building form, metal shutters and fine use of basalt, expressive of security and solidity - particularly appropriate for a gold office.

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Chapter One

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- 2 'Gold Office/Creswick's Creek, Public Works Office/Melbourne/September 1857/ C.G.R., one sheet of drawings held in Public Works Department collection, Public Record Office and on Public Works Department microfiche 'PBC4'.
- 3 Bruce Trethowan, 'The Public Works Department of Victoria 1851-1900 An Architectural History', Research Report, Department of Architecture and Building, University of Melbourne, 1975, vol.1, p.27, vol.2, p.45.
- 4 O'Connor to President of the Board of Land and Works, 13 October 1857, VPRS 242, unit 17, 57A/6045.
- 5 Amos to Sherard, 23 October 1857 with annotation by Sherard to Taylor, 23 October 1857; loc. cit.
- 6 Taylor to President of Board of Land and Works, 24 October 1857, loc. cit.
- 7 Marginal note by Acting Surveyor General, 28 October 1857, loc. cit.
- 8 Victoria Government Gazette, 5 October 1858, p.1911.
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- 10 Victoria Government Gazette, 1858, p.2128.
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- 15 VPRS 963, unit 5, 12 January 1859.
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- 19 Public Works Department to Gold Receiver, Creswick, 14 April 1859; VPRS 975, unit 3, p.124, 59/1186.
- 20 Public Works Department to Gold Receiver, Creswick, 23 May 1859, op.cit., p.256, 59/1666. The name of the contractor is difficult to decipher.

- 21 Township of Creswick on Creswick's Creek, Crown Lands Office, Melbourne, Victoria, April 28th 1857 (W. Collis, Lith), No. 613, copy in VPRS 242, unit 13, 61D/9924.
- 22 See footnote 4.
- 23 See footnote 11.
- 24 Creswick Advertiser, 6 May 1859, p.3; 5 August 1859, p.2.
- 25 ibid., 6 May 1859, p.3, Pasco's complaints were brought before the Municipal Council on 17 May 1859, see CA, 20 May 1859, p.4.
- 26 Victoria Government Gazette, 1 November 1859, p.2342.
- 27 ibid., 29 November 1859, p.2581.
- 28 Taylor to Surveyor General, 17 September 1860, VPRS 242, unit 31, 60B/5809.
- 29 Memorandum from Joseph Reed, Town Clerk, Borough of Creswick to Thomas Cooper, 27 March 1888, MLA in Rs 5466.
- 30 Plan held by Central Plan Office.
- 31 Correspondence in Rs 5466.
- 32 Victoria Government Gazette, 18 January 1889.
- 33 Reed, to Secretary for Lands, 9 May 1892 in Rs 5466.
- 34 Victorian Government Gazette, 24 March 1893.
- 35 Detailed in Rs 5466.

Chapter Three

- 1 Victoria Government Gazette, 30 July 1858, p.1435, 30 June 1859, p.1380 and 30 December 1859, p.2819.
- 2 ibid., 30 March 1858, p.606.
- 3 Statistics for the Colony of Victoria for the year 1859..., in Victorian Parliamentary Papers, 1859-60, pp.62-63.
- 4 ibid., for 1862, in VPP, 1864, pp.369-370.
- 5 Victoria Government Gazette, 4 March 1859, p.403.
- 6 Statistics ... for 1859, op.cit., p.123.
- 7 Victoria Government Gazette, 14 January 1854, pp.62-63, 18 March 1859, p.507.
- 8 ibid., 29 April 1859, p.875.
- 9 ibid., 8 July 1859, p.1423.
- 10 Victoria Government Gazette, 14 January 1859, pp.62-63.
- 11 Harmer Trethowan Architects, Ararat Post Office, Department of Transport and Construction, Melbourne, 1982, pp.19-29.
- 12 Victoria Government Gazette, 15 June 1858, p.1139; VPRS 972, vol 1 (Public Works Department, summary of contracts); Avoca Mail, 12 November 1975; research notes by National Trust of Australia (Victoria) file 3785.
- 13 Public Works Department drawing PBT 1.1; VPRS 957, unit 2, p.193; VPRS 979, unit 1, p.7.
- 14 W.B. Withers, History of Ballarat, F.W. Niven, Ballarat, 2nd ed, 1887 (facsimile ed, Melbourne, 1980).
- 15 VPP, 1859-60, I, Audit Act, expenditure for 1857 brought to account during 1858; VPRS 972 (PWD Summary of Contracts), f.41.
- 16 VPRS 972, vol 1 (Public Works Department, summary of contracts); Public Works Department drawing, PBD 1.2.
- 17 VPRS 972, vol. 1, f.42; Public Works Department Plan, PBD 2.1.
- 18 Photograph in Semmens collection; University of Melbourne

- Archives; Victoria Government Gazette, 13 April 1858, p.712.
- 19 C.E. Sayers, Shepherd's Gold, The Story of Stawell, F.W. Chesire, Melbourne, 1966, pp.24, 37; VPP, 1859-60, I, Expenditure, 1858, vote 88; Victoria Government Gazette, 12 February 1858, p.291; *ibid.*, 12 March 1858, p.482.
- 20 National Trust of Australia (Victoria), 'Research into the Former Ararat Sub-treasury', p.2, cited in Harmer Trethowan Architects, Ararat Post Office, 1982, p.23.

APPENDIX ONE: STUDY BRIEF

PROPOSED C.I.

CONSERVATION ANALYSIS

FORMER GOLD-OFFICE & SUB-TREASURY, REAR 87 GILBERT STREET, CRESWICK

1.0 BACKGROUND

The former Creswick Gold Office and Sub-Treasury was added to the Register of the Historic Buildings on the 9th February 1985.

The Historic Buildings Council have allocated a maximum of \$3,500 towards a Conservation Analysis of the structure and a further \$8,000 towards its re-roofing.

The building is located behind the Public Library and stands on land permanently reserved for that purpose and for which the Shire of Creswick is the Committee of Management.

The building is not used at present and is in urgent need of weather-proofing.

2.0 HISTORY OF THE FORMER GOLD-OFFICE AND SUB TREASURY

The Creswick Gold-Office and Sub-Treasury was built in 1858 to a design by the Public Works Department. Its architect was C G Ross and its construction followed shortly after the appointment of F J Bury as Creswick's first permanent Gold Commissioner to administer the goldfields in the Creswick area which had been worked since 1852. It was the first public building erected on the Government Reserve followed by the Courthouse (1859), Police Station (1861) and Post Office (1862).

The building is constructed of coursed and tuckpointed bluestone with a gable roof. It is rectangular in plan, with a connecting passage behind the central chimney, linking the building's two rooms. The front facade has four pairs of french windows spaced at regular intervals (two to each room) set within deep reveals and secured by rivetted iron shutters. The only other opening to the building is a sash window to the office in one gable end. It originally had a verandah across the front.

The building is an evocative reminder of Government activity on one of Victoria's more prominent goldfields. The rushes at Creswick began early in 1852 but by the late 1860s mining activity had declined. The discovery of a rich alluvial vein at Broomfield Gully in 1872 revived mining activity and began a period of deep lead mining that sustained the town until well into the 20th century.

The former Creswick gold office and subtreasury is of significance as one of the earliest of the permanent public offices established in the 1850s to administer mining and its associated activities and one of a smaller group of structures purpose-built as a subtreasury. As such it is of particular relevance to the understanding of public administration on Victoria's early gold fields.

FOOTNOTE

1. STATE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, -1858 p. 2128, announced that tenders have been accepted for a Gold Office at Creswick for 306 pounds 17 shillings. The contract was awarded to John Stabb. The tender notice acceptance went on to read ... on the 15.10.1858 a charge was made against a vote for funds No. 88 - Gold Offices at various places.

3.0 PURPOSE

3.1 CONSERVATION ANALYSIS

The conservation analysis shall assemble all of the evidence that will bear upon the authenticity and the significance of the place. It shall not deal with or take account of legal constraints, possible ways of using the place or the costs and returns involved in any course of action.

The analysis shall conclude with a clear and succinct Statement of Cultural Significance which summarises what aspects are seen as important, and to what extent the relevant fabric is intact.

4. SCOPE

The report shall address the former Gold Office and Sub-Treasury building and shall include internal and external materials, finishes, fittings and fixtures.

The consultant shall have regard to the ICOMOS (Australia) Guidelines for Conservation Analysis and Plans.

5. CONTENT

5.1 CONSERVATION ANALYSIS

5.1.1 The following matters shall be addressed:

- a. The authority and development sequence of surviving fabric.
- b. The broad form of missing fabric.
- c. Details of partly missing or obliterated features, components and finishes.
- d. Whether any features are rare or technically interesting, and their sources where possible.
- e. The functions of different parts of the place and of its physical features or structures, and their relationship to the surroundings.
- f. The cultural sources which have influenced the form of the place, and its relationship to compatible or neighbouring examples, and other works of the same designer or the same social origin.
- g. To what extent the fabric of the place has been moulded by historical forces or has itself affected the course of history.

h. The physical condition to the extent that it bears upon its integrity.

i. possible sources of purchase of replacement fittings and fabrics.

5.1.2 The analysis shall incorporate a sufficient record by drawing or photography to enable a clear understanding of its nature.

5.1.3 All conclusions will be supported by evidence. Hypotheses shall be presented as such and shall outline the line of reasoning followed.

5.1.4 A comprehensive bibliography shall be provided.

6. RESPONSIBILITY

The consultant shall be responsible for the production of the report to the Historic Buildings Council.

The consultant shall report and provide draft copies to the Historic Buildings Council at stages to be determined by negotiation.

7. FORMAT

The report shall be typed in an A4 format.

Architectural drawings shall conform to the accepted conventions and shall be capable of being bound into the report.

Photographs shall be "half-tone" black and white to enable reproduction.

Pages shall be numbered and a list of illustrations provided.

8. REQUISITE EXPERIENCE

It is anticipated that the successful consultant will have or have access to skills in architecture and history.

9. OWNERSHIP AND COPIES

9.1 OWNERSHIP

Ownership and the right to use any of the materials from the report shall remain with the Historic Buildings Council.

9.2 The consultant shall allow for the printing of three copies of the report and shall provide the master copies and artwork necessary for the Historic Buildings Council to produce additional copies as required.

10. TIMING

10.1 DURATION

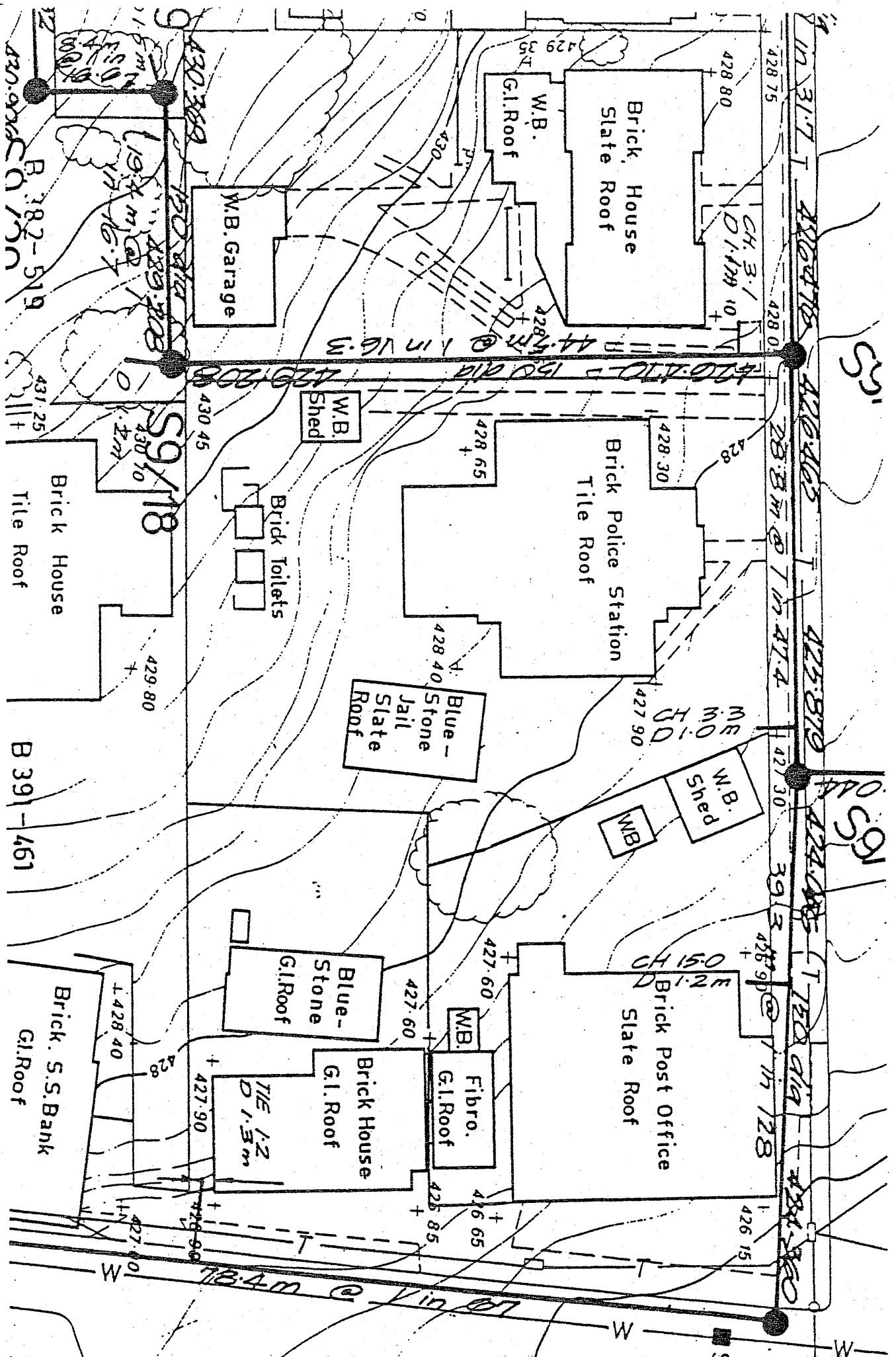
To be negotiated. Applicants are to submit a time schedule for the report, preferably to be completed within two months of appointment.

10.2 DETAILS

Time allocations to the various section of the report will be submitted to the Historic Buildings Council prior to commencement.

11. FEES

The Historic Buildings Council has allocated a maximum of ³⁵⁰⁰~~\$2,000~~ for the Conservation Analysis. Applicants are to submit an estimate of cost including travel, accommodation, photography, printing etc...



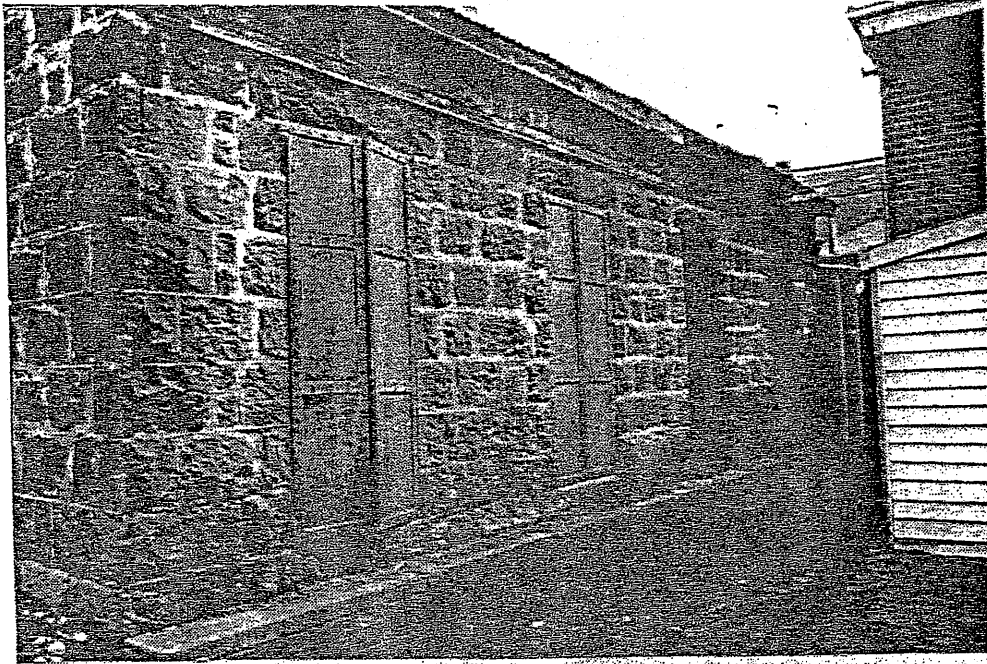


Figure 2
Creswick Gold Office, east
elevation, September 1987



Figure 3
Creswick Gold Office, north and
west elevations, September 1987

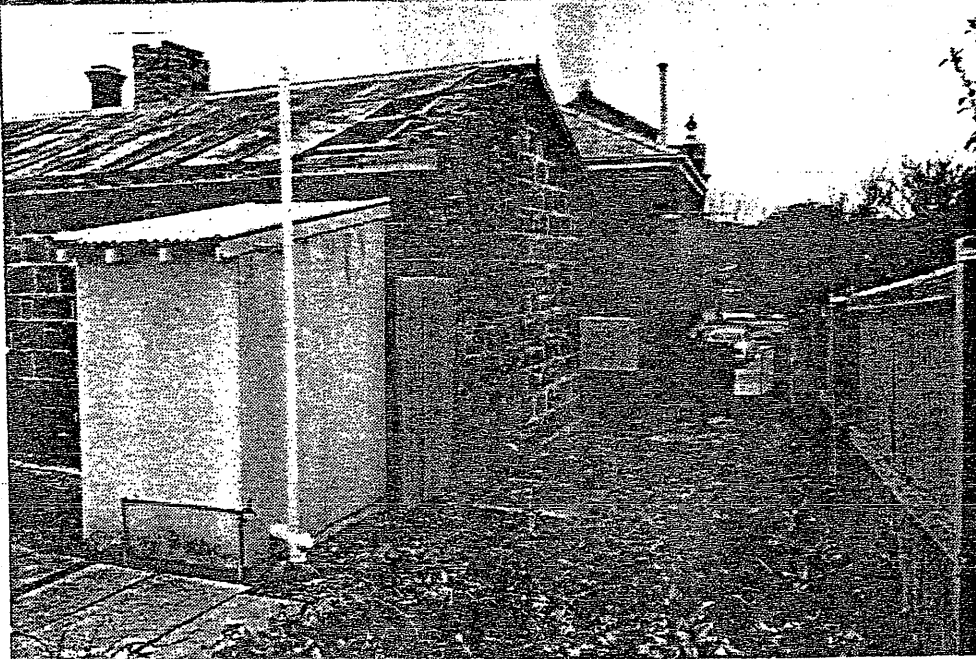


Figure 4
Creswick Gold Office, south elevation
showing modern W.C., September 1987

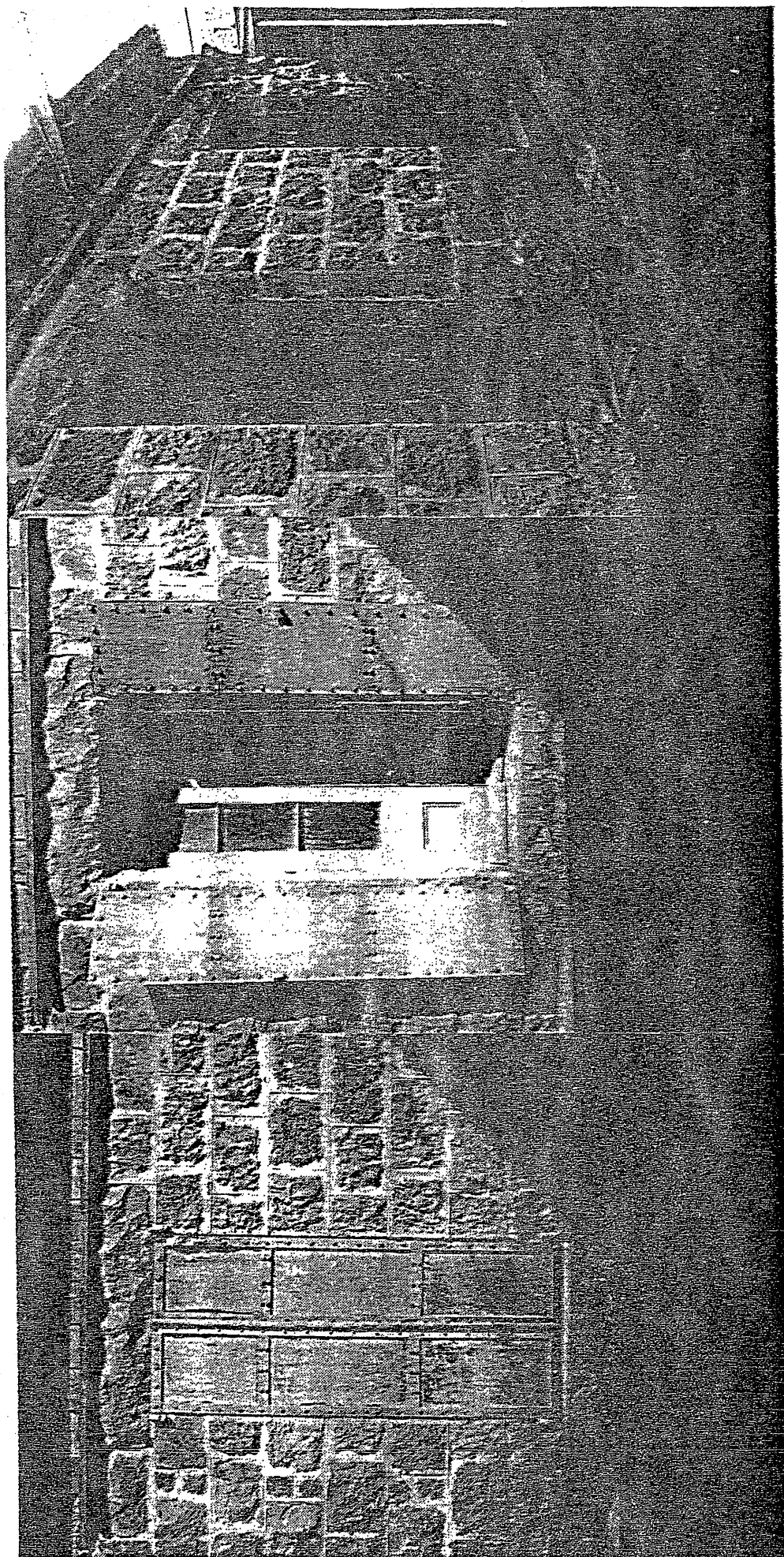


Figure 7
Creswick Gold Office, detail of
shutters closed, September 1987

Figure 6
Creswick Gold Office, detail of
shutters open, September 1987

Figure 5
Creswick Gold Office, detail of
doors to north room, September 1987

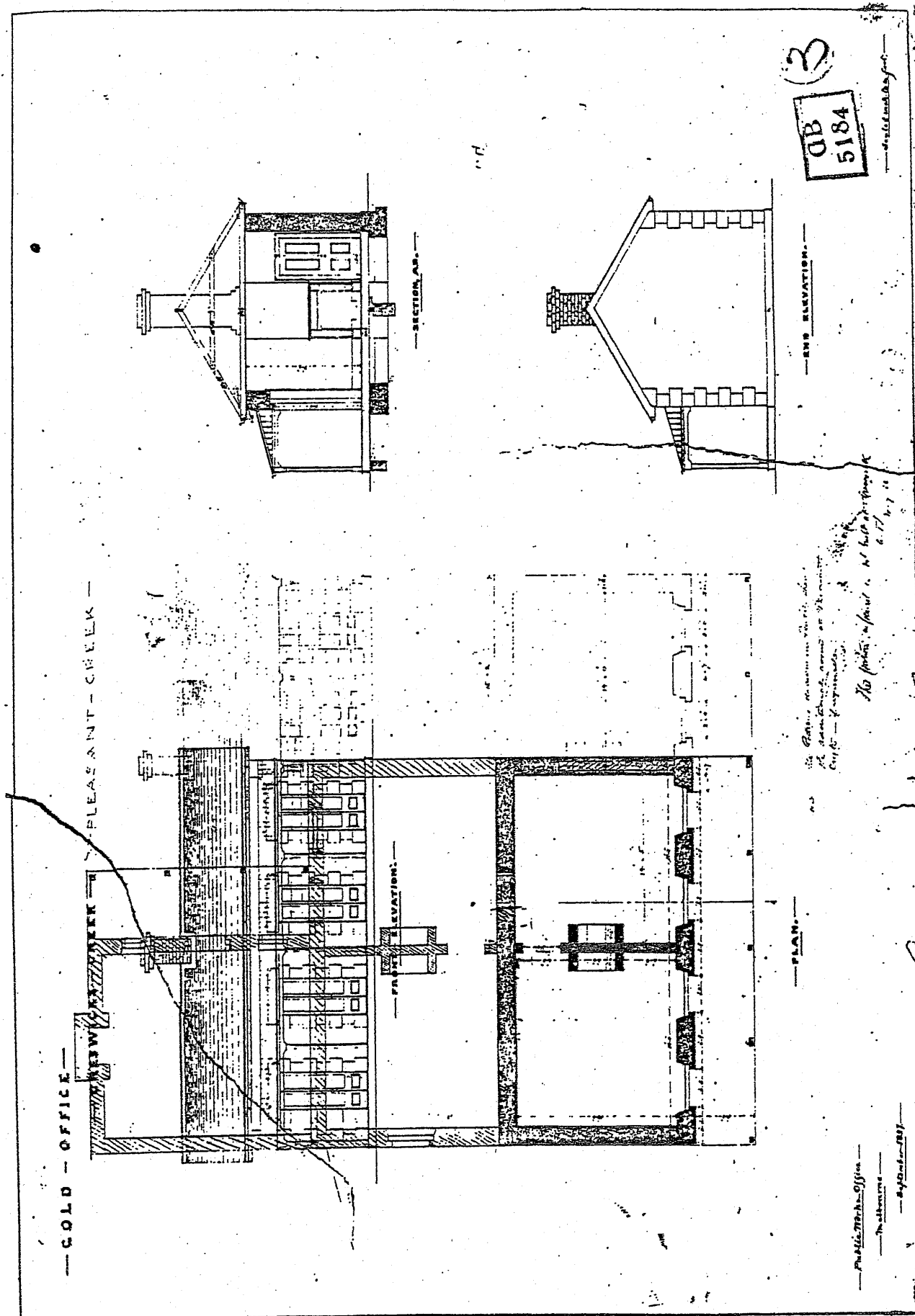


Figure 8
Public Works Department drawing, Creswick Gold Office, 1857. The penciled additions were intended for Pleasant Creek and a note says 'The portion in pencil is not built at Creswick'. The original drawing is coloured, presumably for its use at Pleasant Creek. [PBC 4, Public Works Department collection, Public Record Office]

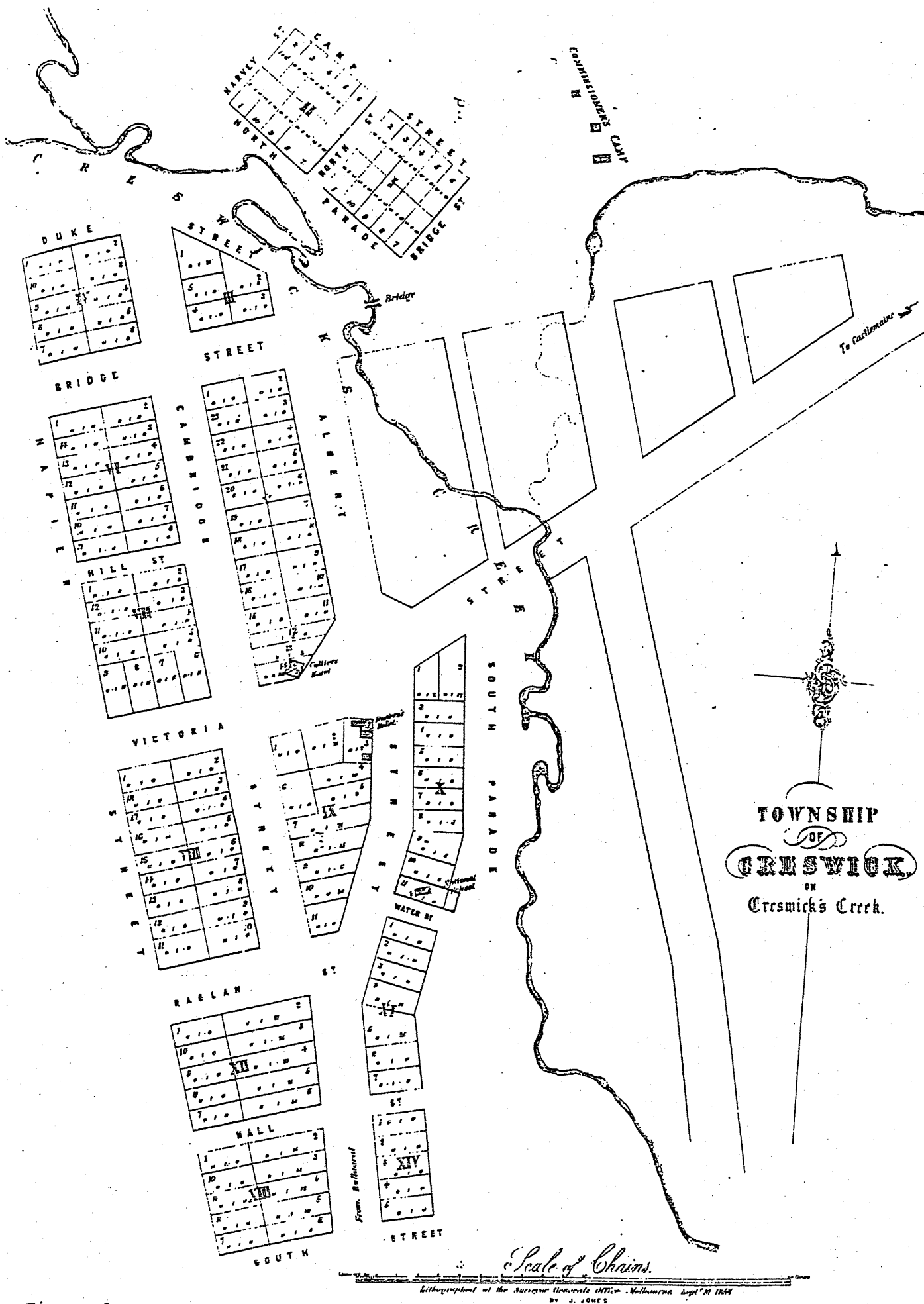


Figure 9
Township plan of Creswick, 1854
[Central Plan Office]

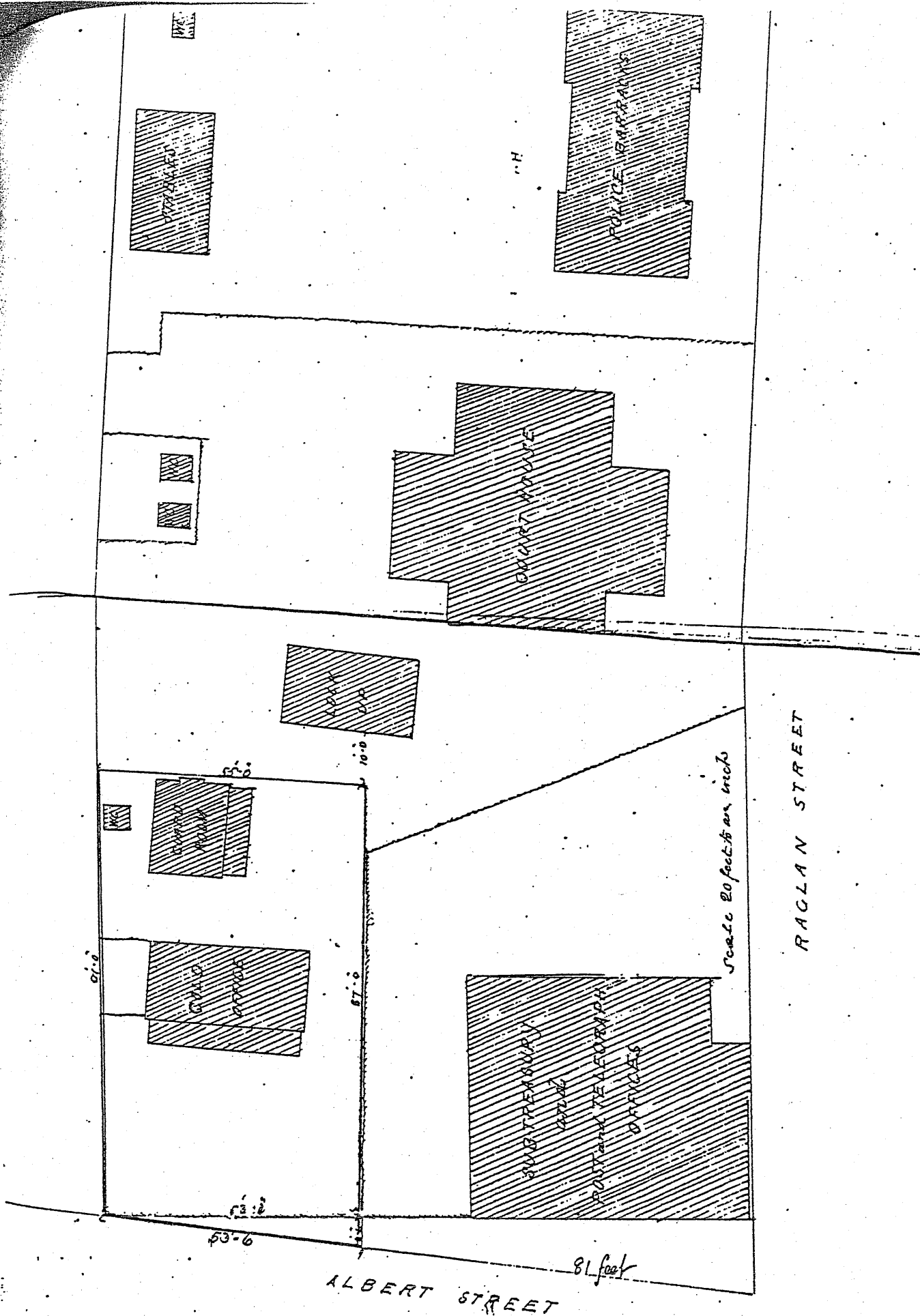


Figure 11
 Site plan of the government buildings at Creswick, 1888
 [Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands file Rs 5466]

Area $0.0.17\frac{1}{2}$.

Scale / Chain to an Inch.

DESCRIPTION

Certif. of Reg. No ✓

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Physical conform."

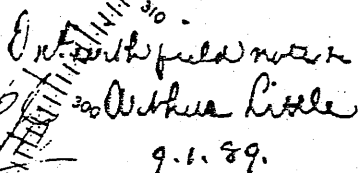
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Noted H. Lewis
15.2.93

John D. Smith, Jr. Authorized Surveyor.

30 October 1958

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I certify to the best of my belief that
this survey has been effected with due regard to instructions and that
the Plans & Survey are correct.

Surveyor's site plan of the Creswick Gold Office block, 1888
[Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands file Rs 5466]

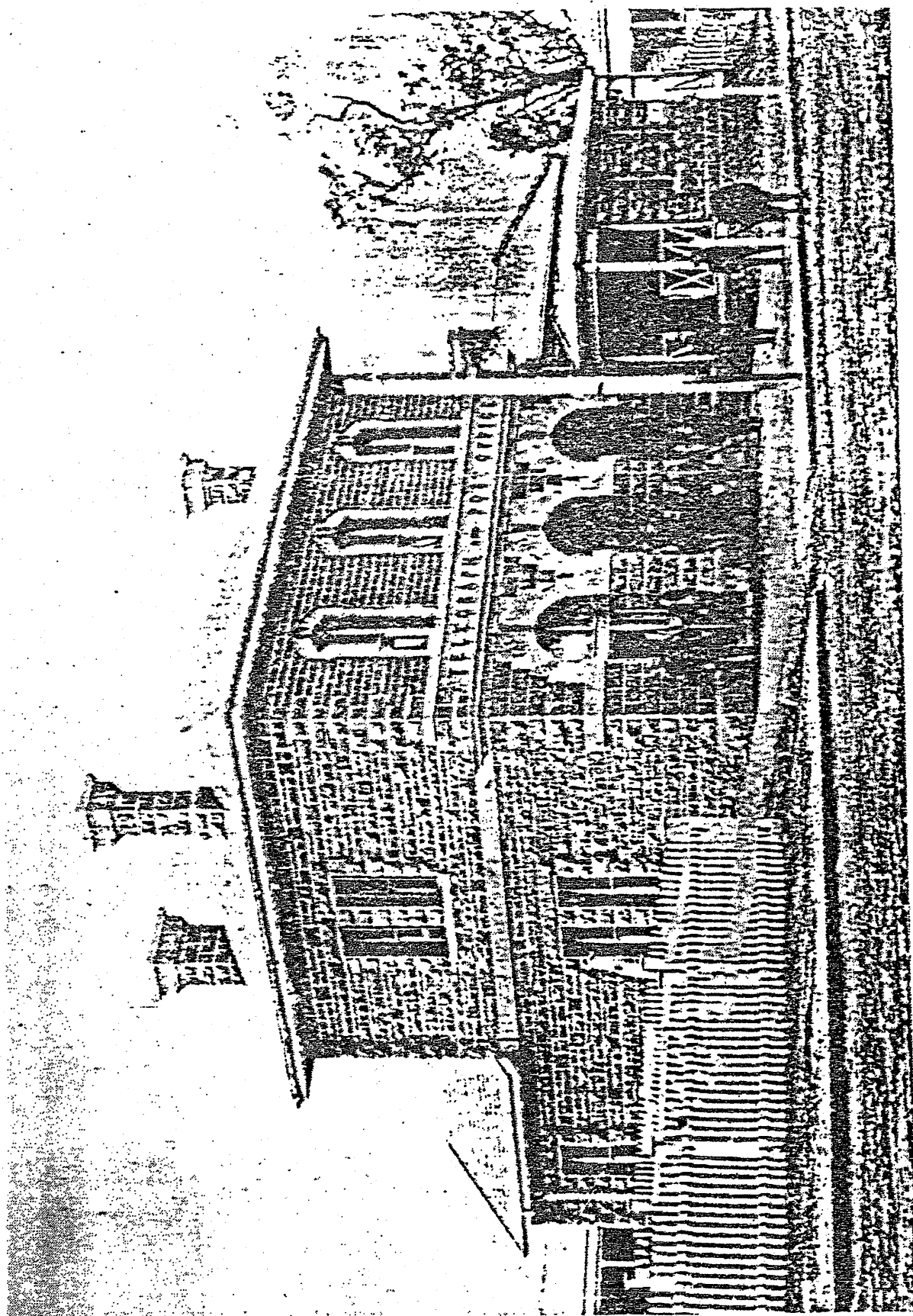
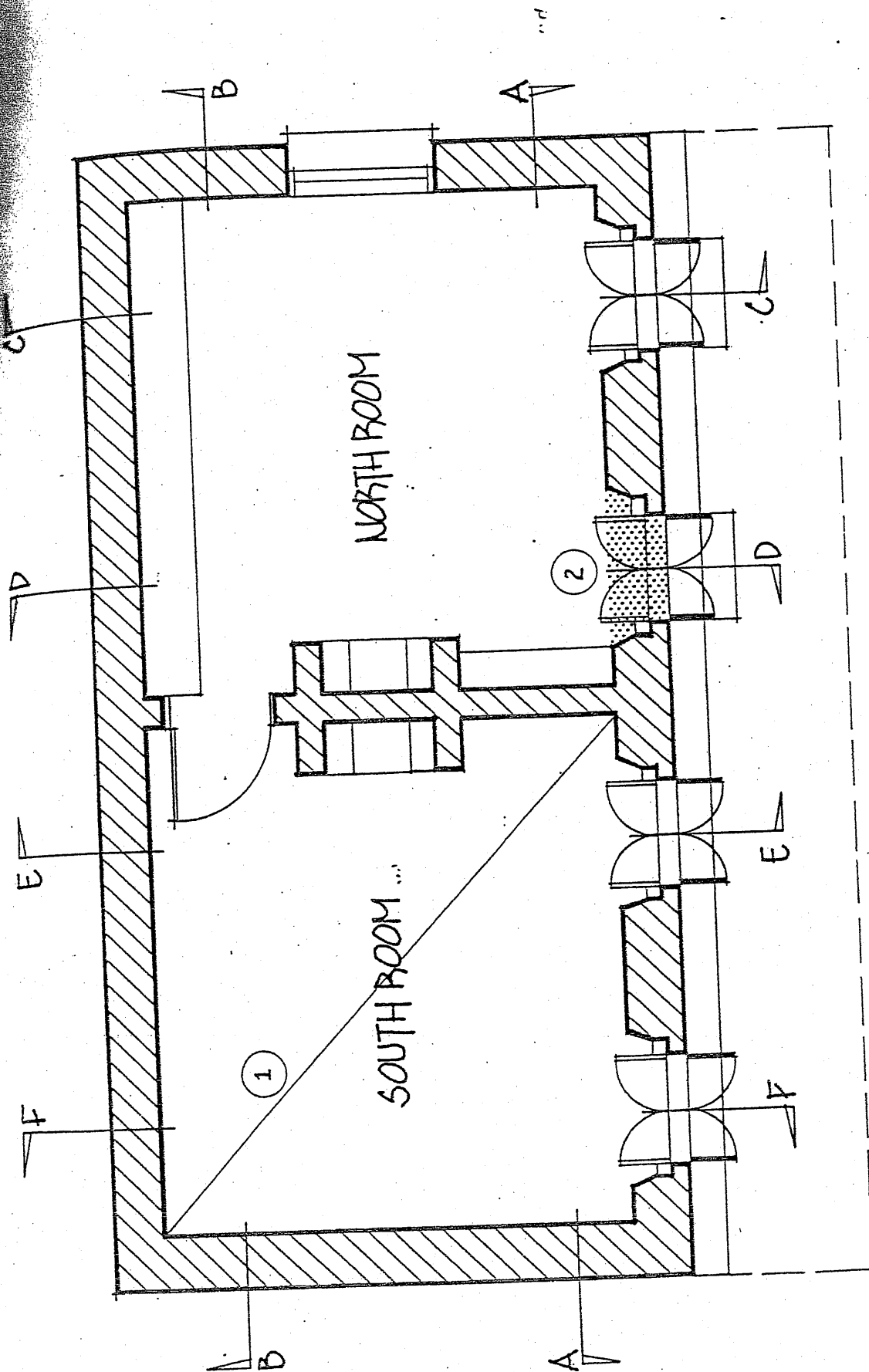


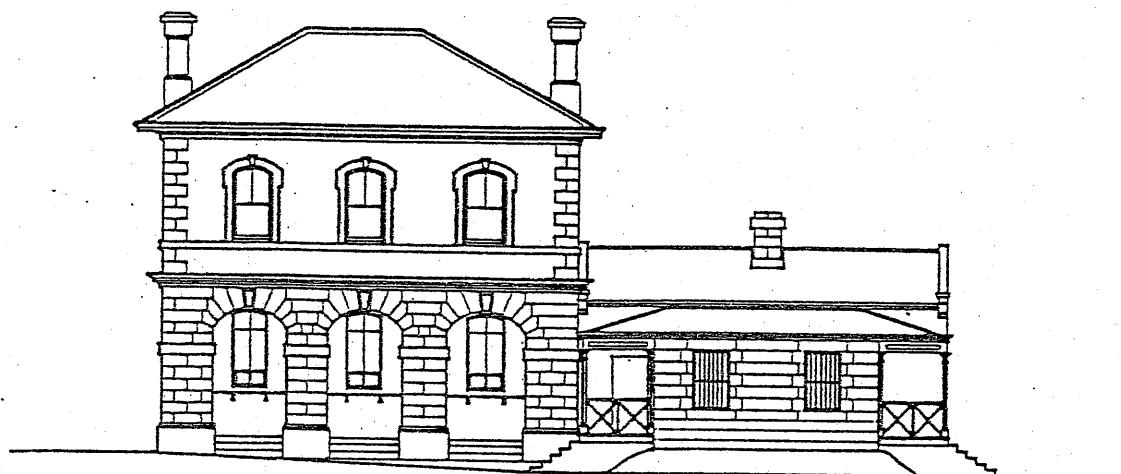
Figure 13
Ararat Post Office and former Sub-Treasury, c. 1865
[Photograph courtesy Department of Administrative Services
Construction Group]



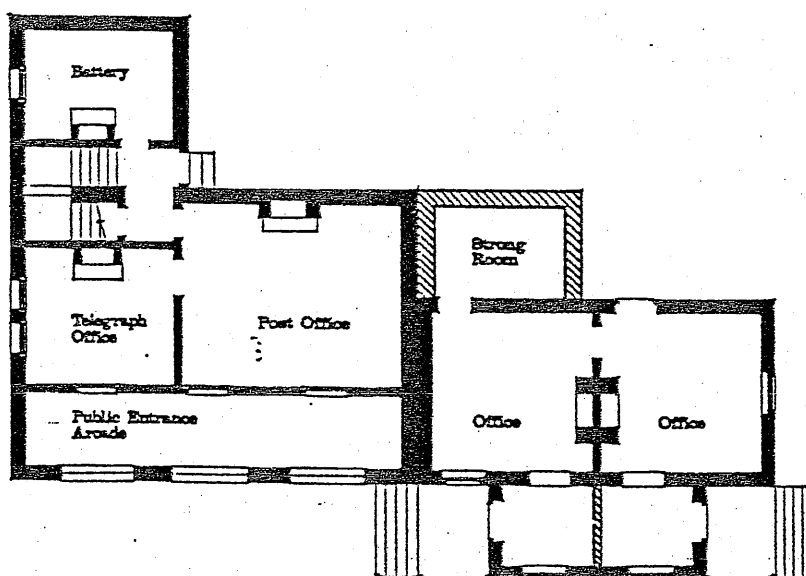
Notes

- 1 Floor needs total replacement
- 2 Floor boards and some substructure damaged

FLOOR PLAN



SOUTH ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR
PLAN

ARARAT POST OFFICE 1862

Figure 14
Plan and elevation of Ararat Post Office and former Sub-Treasury,
1862
[Drawing courtesy Department of Administrative Services
Construction Group]

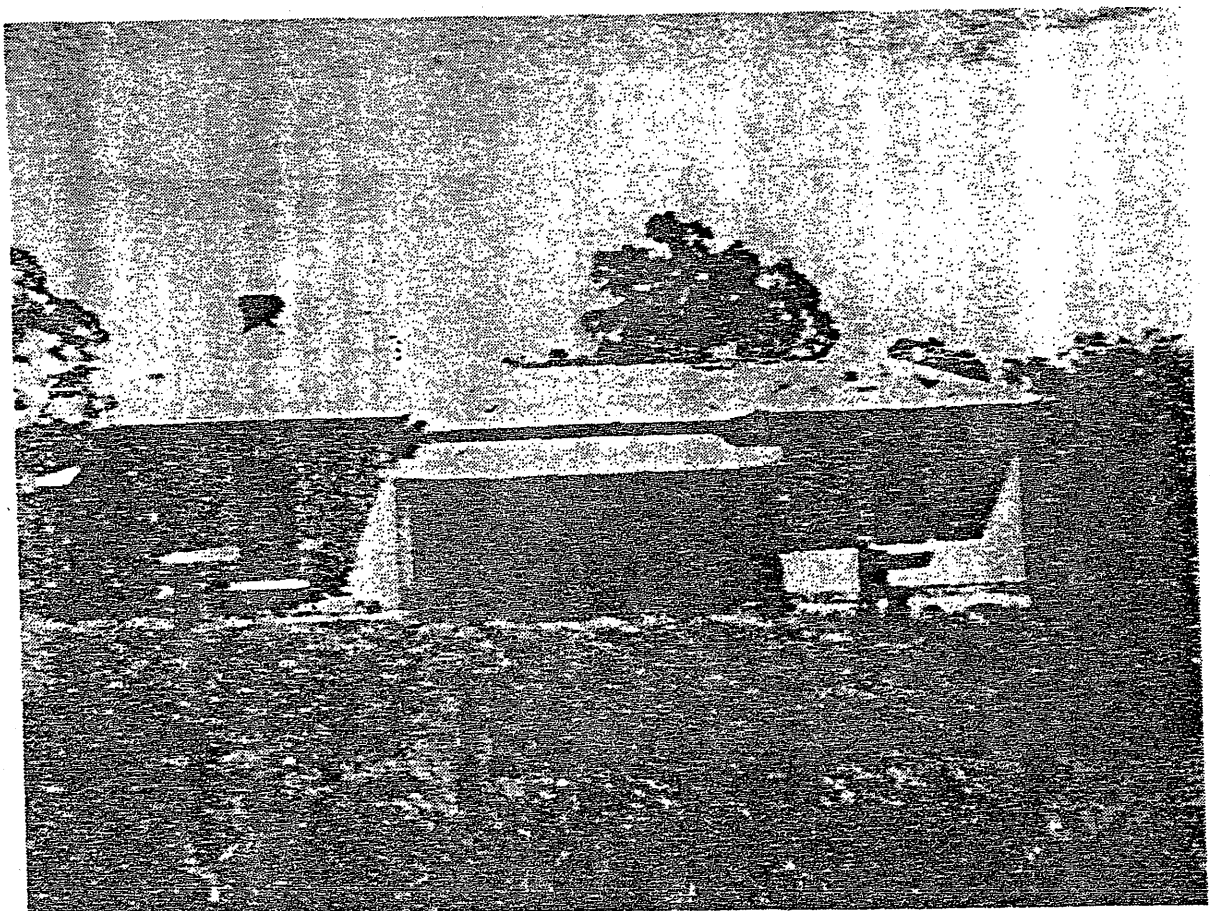
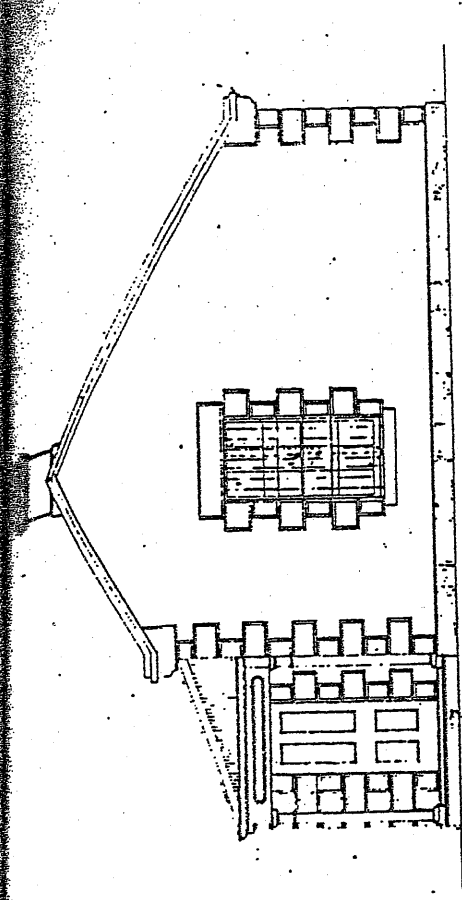
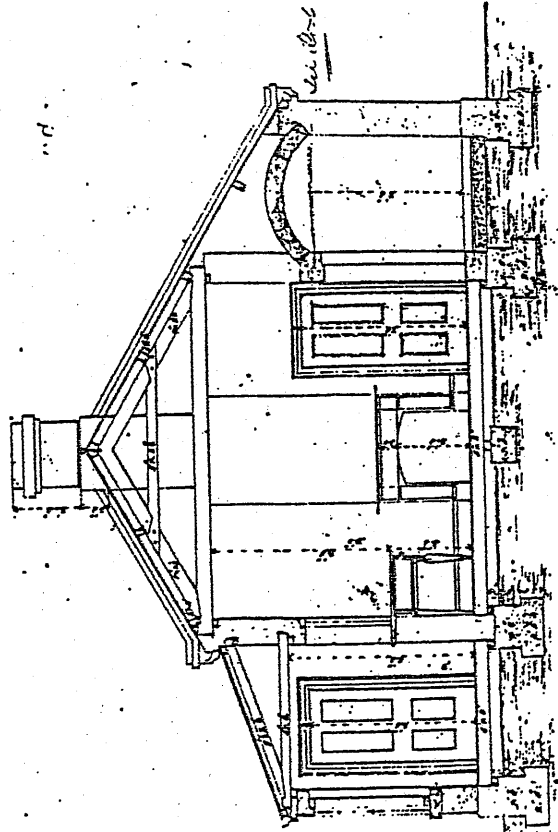


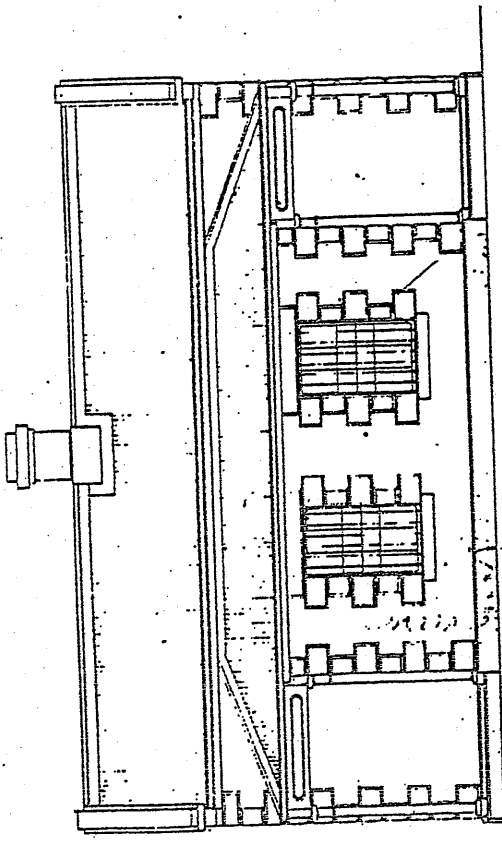
Figure 15
Avoca Gold Office, c.1975
[Photographs courtesy National Trust of Australia (Victoria)]



SIDE ELEVATION.



SECTION ON LINE ab.



FRONT ELEVATION.

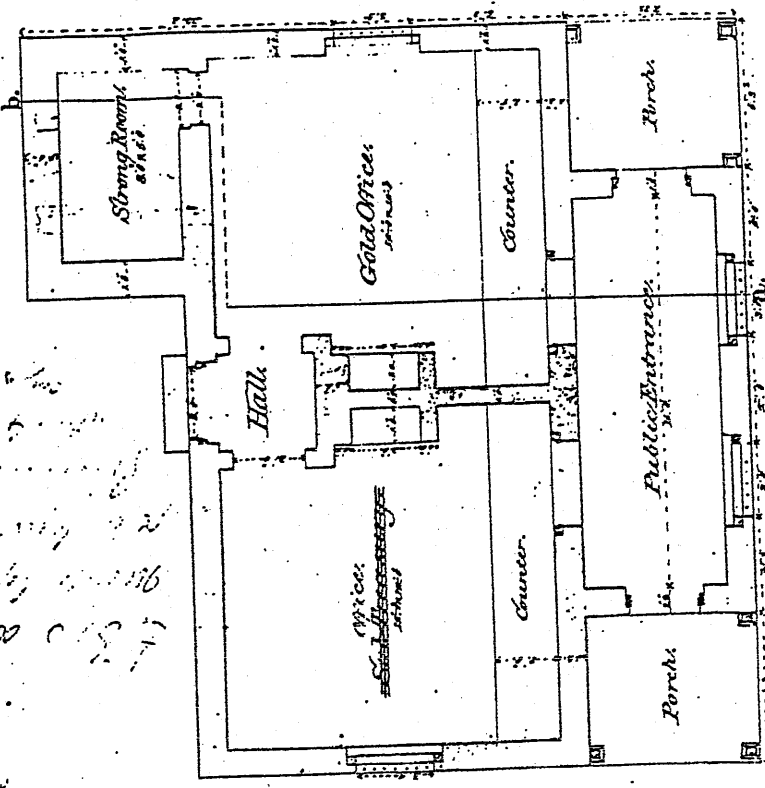
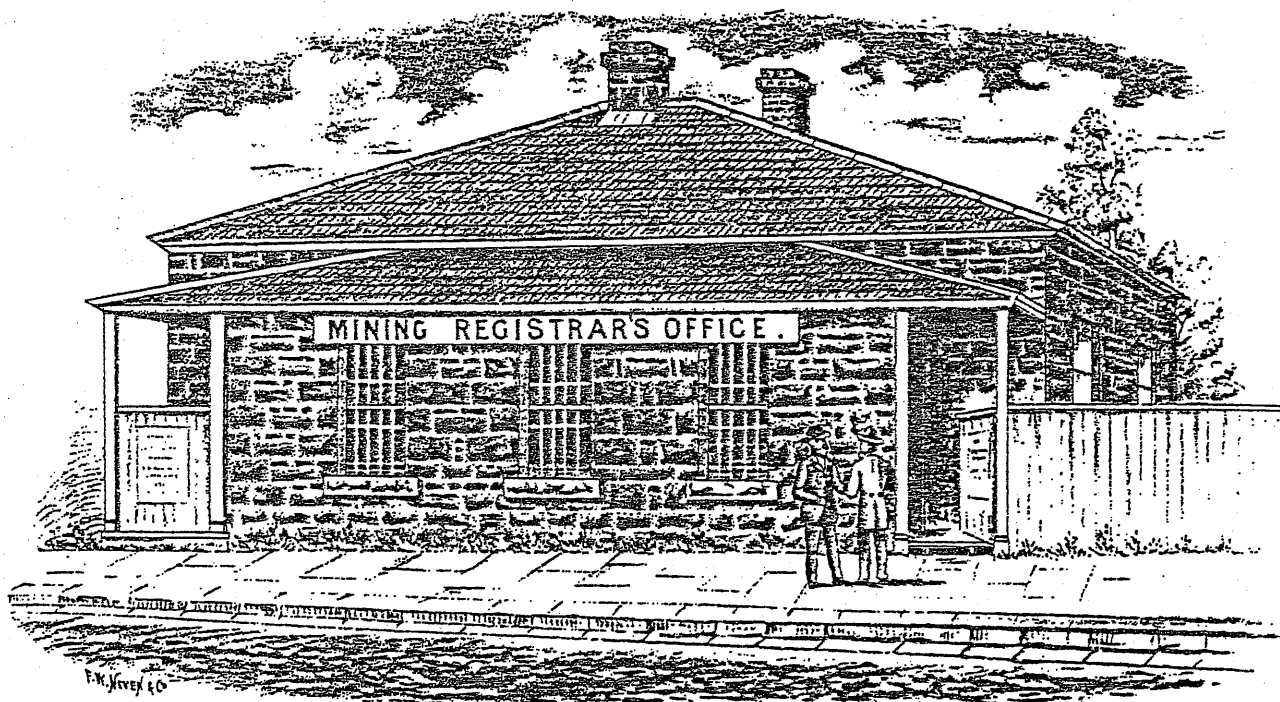


Figure 16
Public Works Department drawings for Gold Office, Amherst, 1859
[PBT 1.1, Public Works Department collection, Public Record Office]



THE MINING REGISTRAR'S OFFICE LYDIARD ST
LATE THE GOVERNMENT TREASURY 1856.

Figure 17
Gold Office, Ballarat, published in Withers' History of Ballarat,
1887

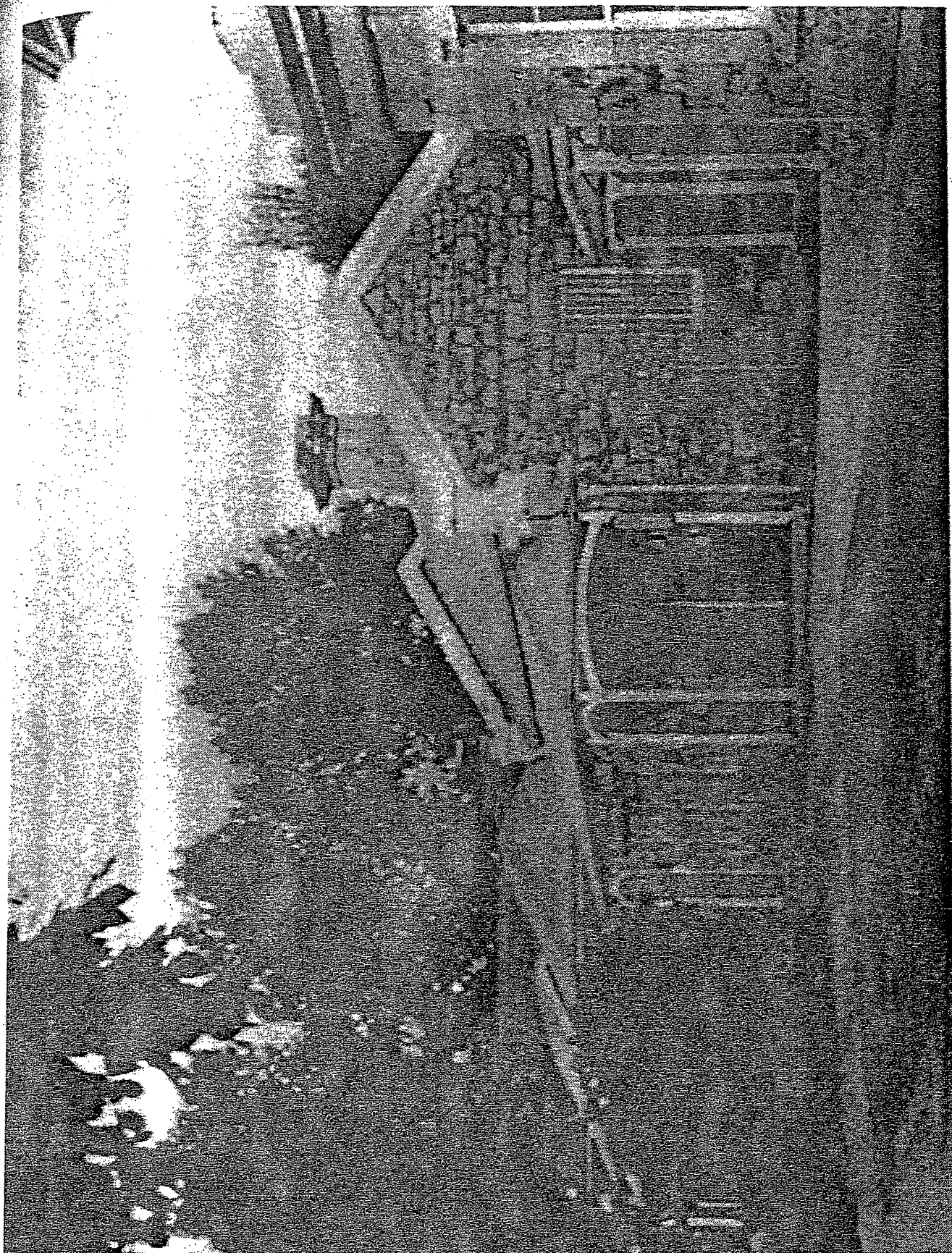
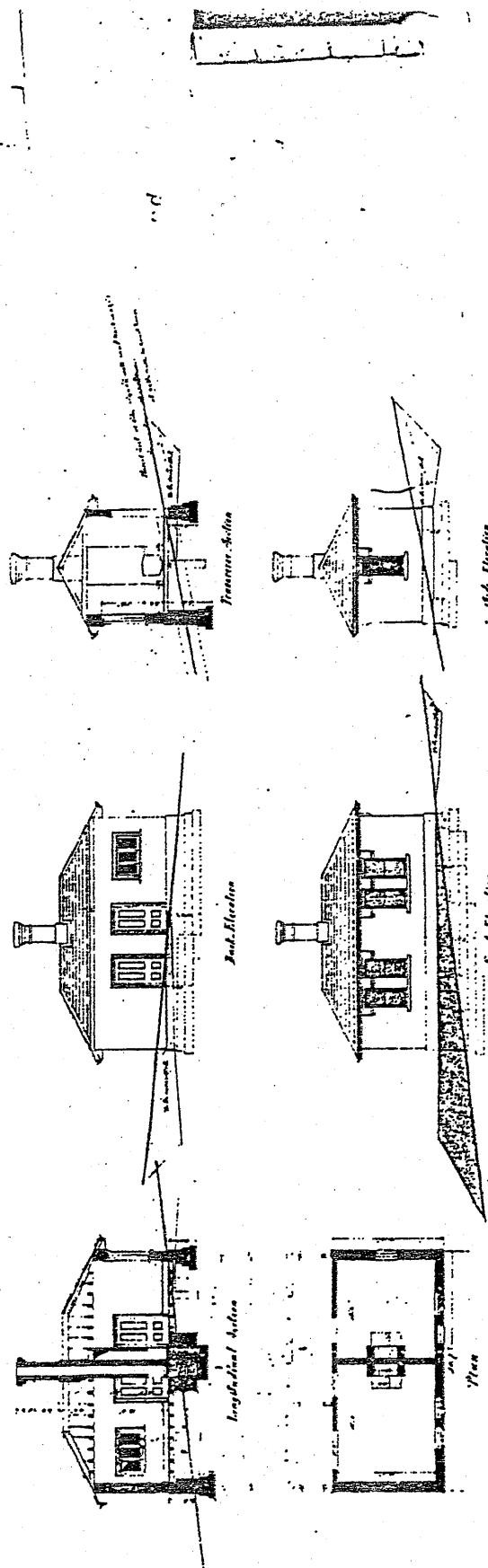


Figure 18
Gold Office, Beechworth, c.1960-70, published in Historic Public
Buildings of Australia, 1971, p.170

Treasury Building - Daylesford



CB
5161

Side. The yellow colored parts to be made excavation again filling.

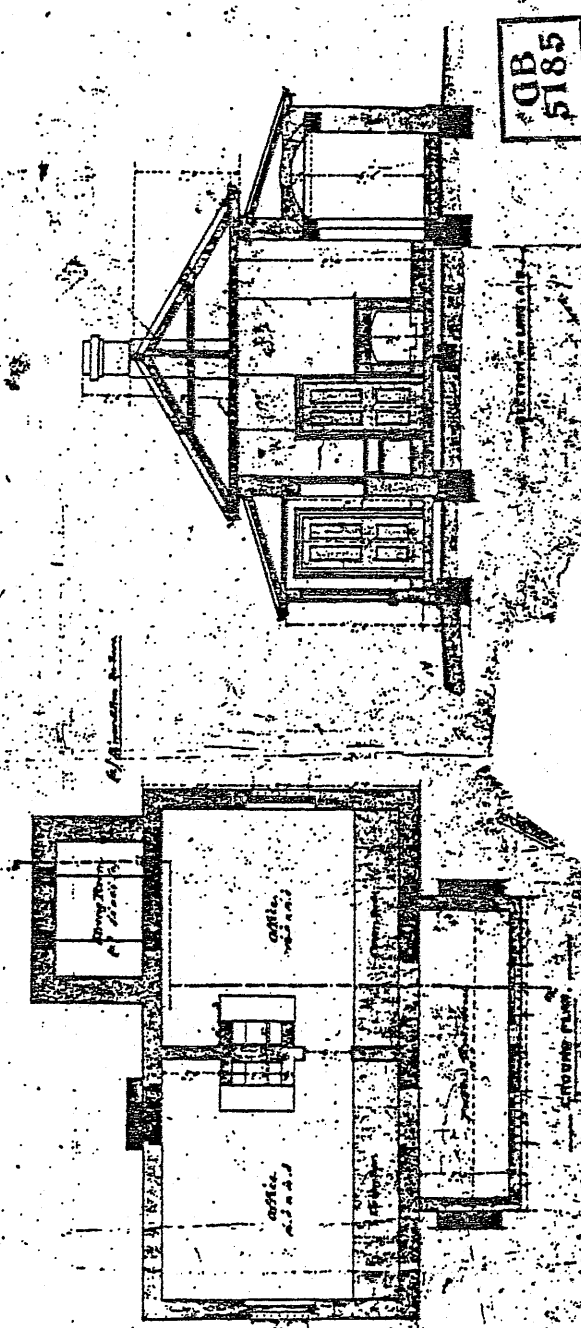
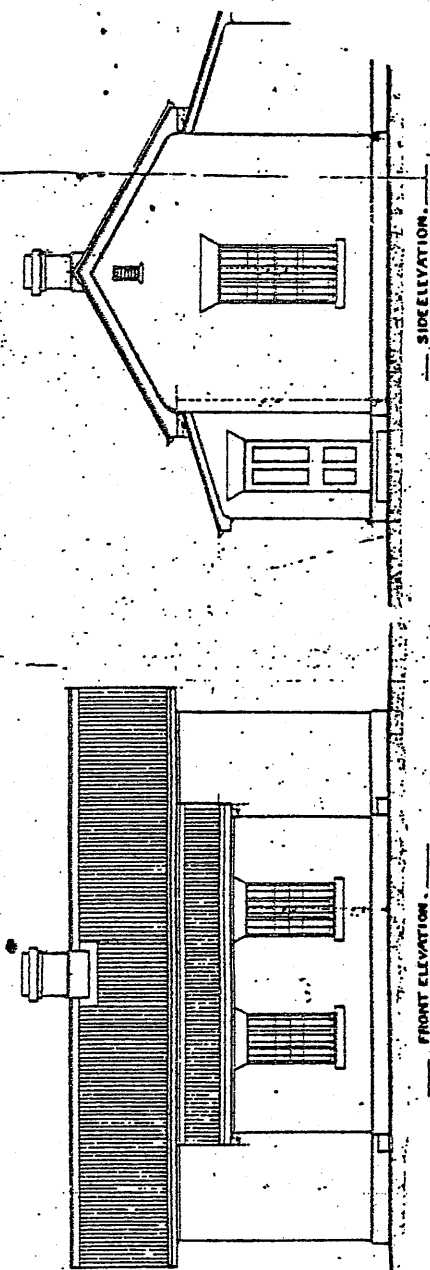
Scale 1 inch to 10 feet.

Public Works Office
Melbourne 27th Nov 1863

Figure 19
Public Works Department drawing for Treasury, Daylesford, 1863
[PBD 1.2, Public Works Department collection, Public Record Office]

GOLD OFFICE.

Dunolly.



QB 5185

Figure 20
Public Works Department drawing for Gold Office, Dunolly, 1859
[PBD 1.2, Public Works Department collection, Public Record Office]

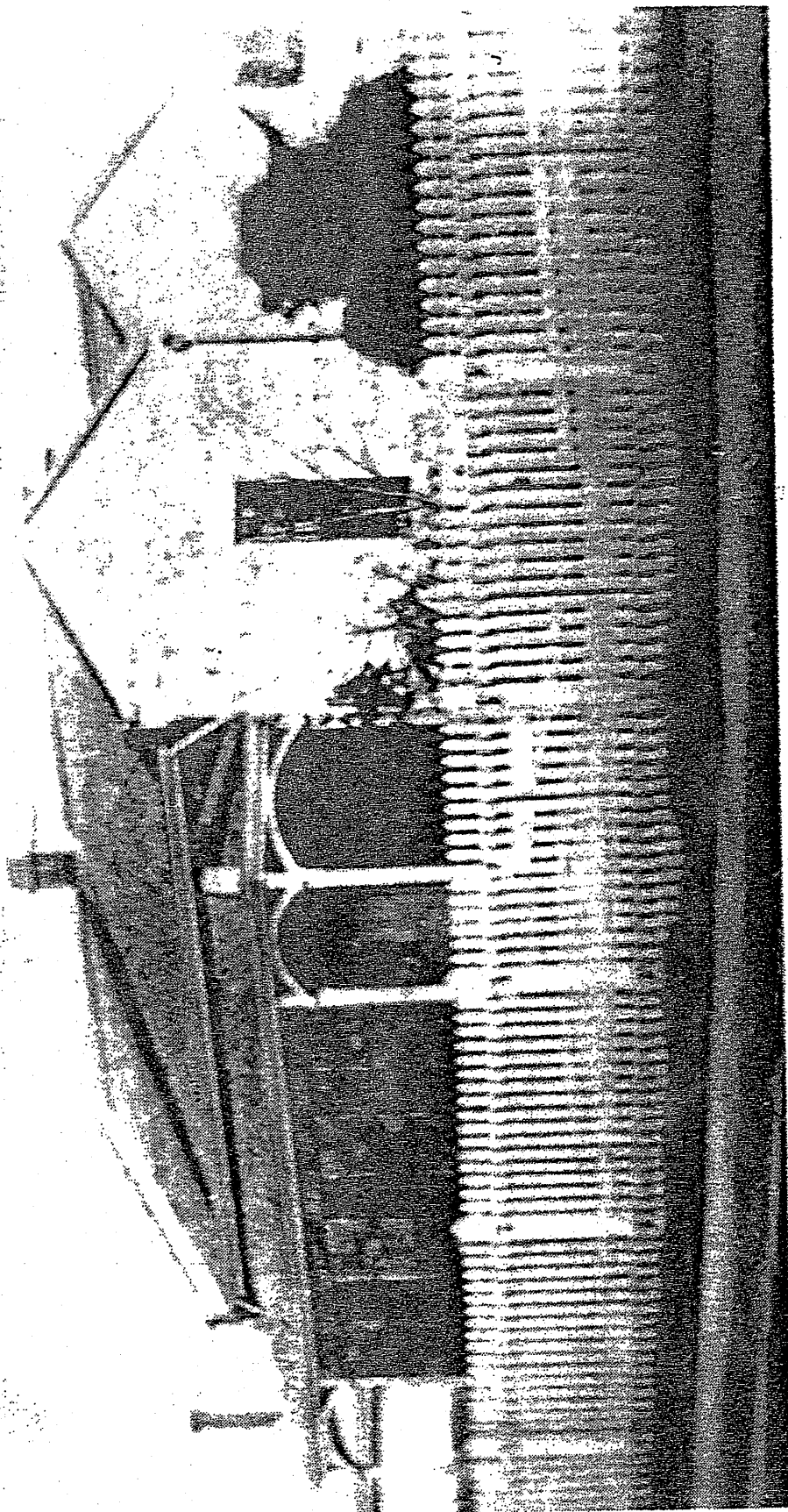
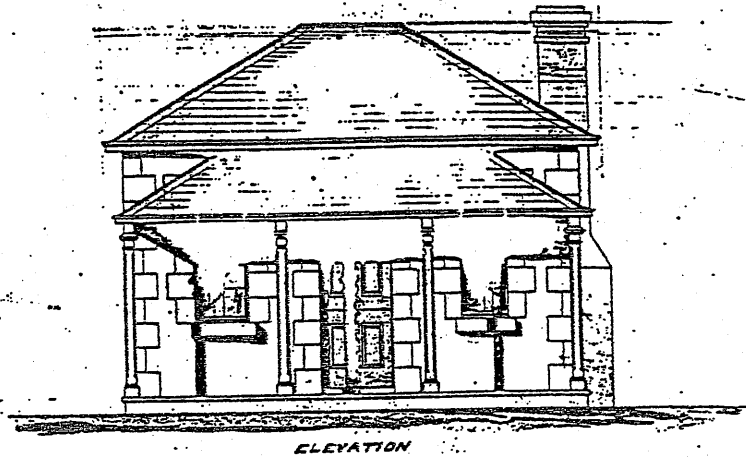


Figure 21
Sub-Treasury, Maryborough, n.d.
[Semmens collection, University of Melbourne Archives]

GUARD HOUSE . TREASURY.
MARYBOROUGH.



This plan is for the
the same building.
Cost was estimated.

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220

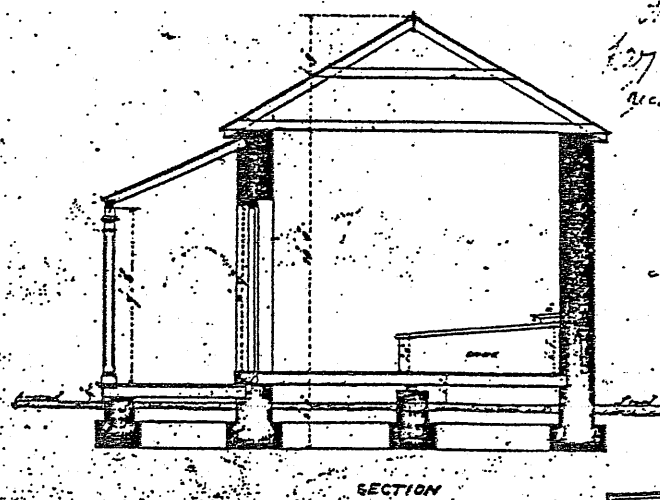
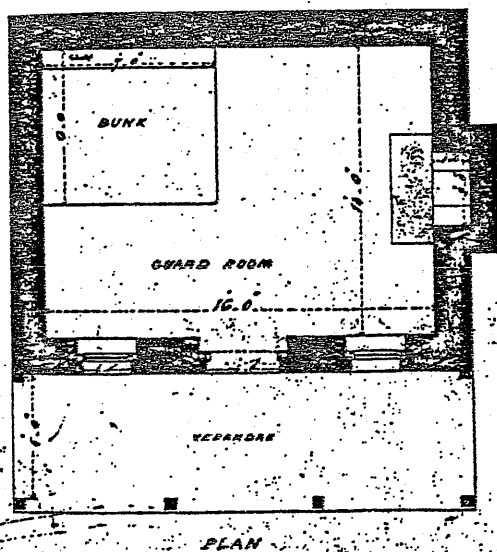
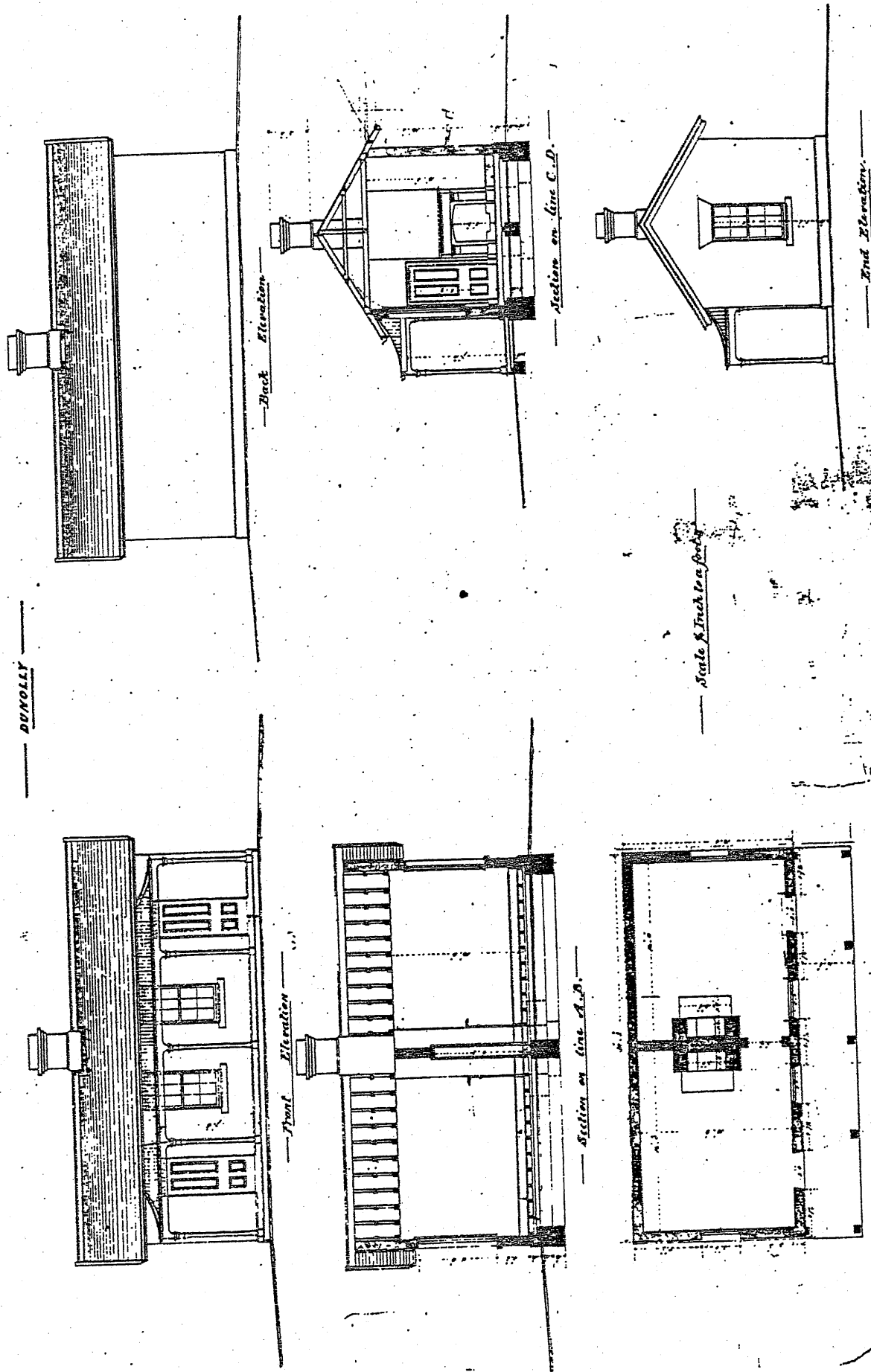


Figure 22
Public Works Department drawing for Guard House, Sub-Treasury,
Maryborough, 1858
[PBM 1.1, Public Works Department collection, Public Record Office]

WARDEN'S OFFICE.

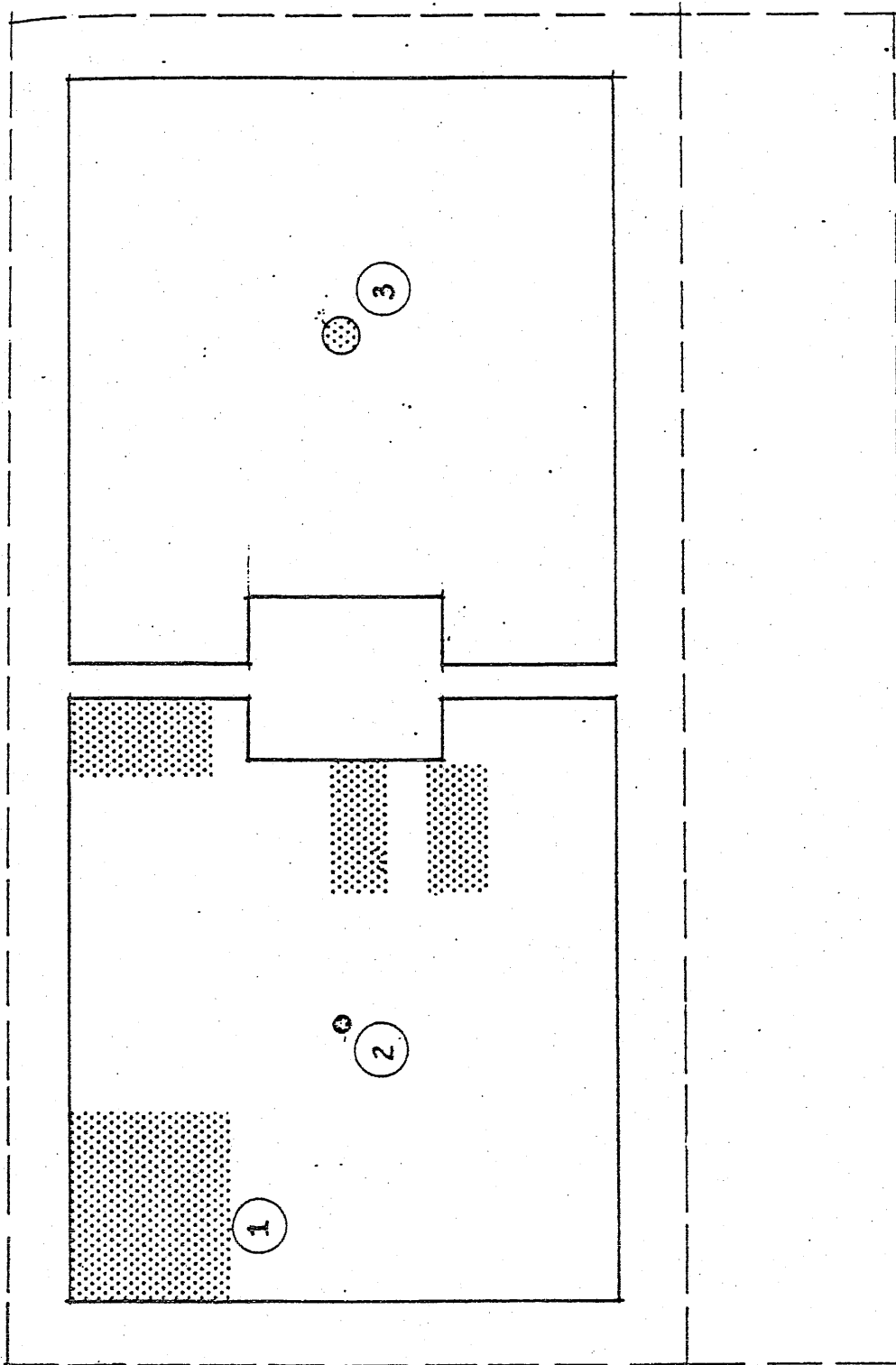
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22

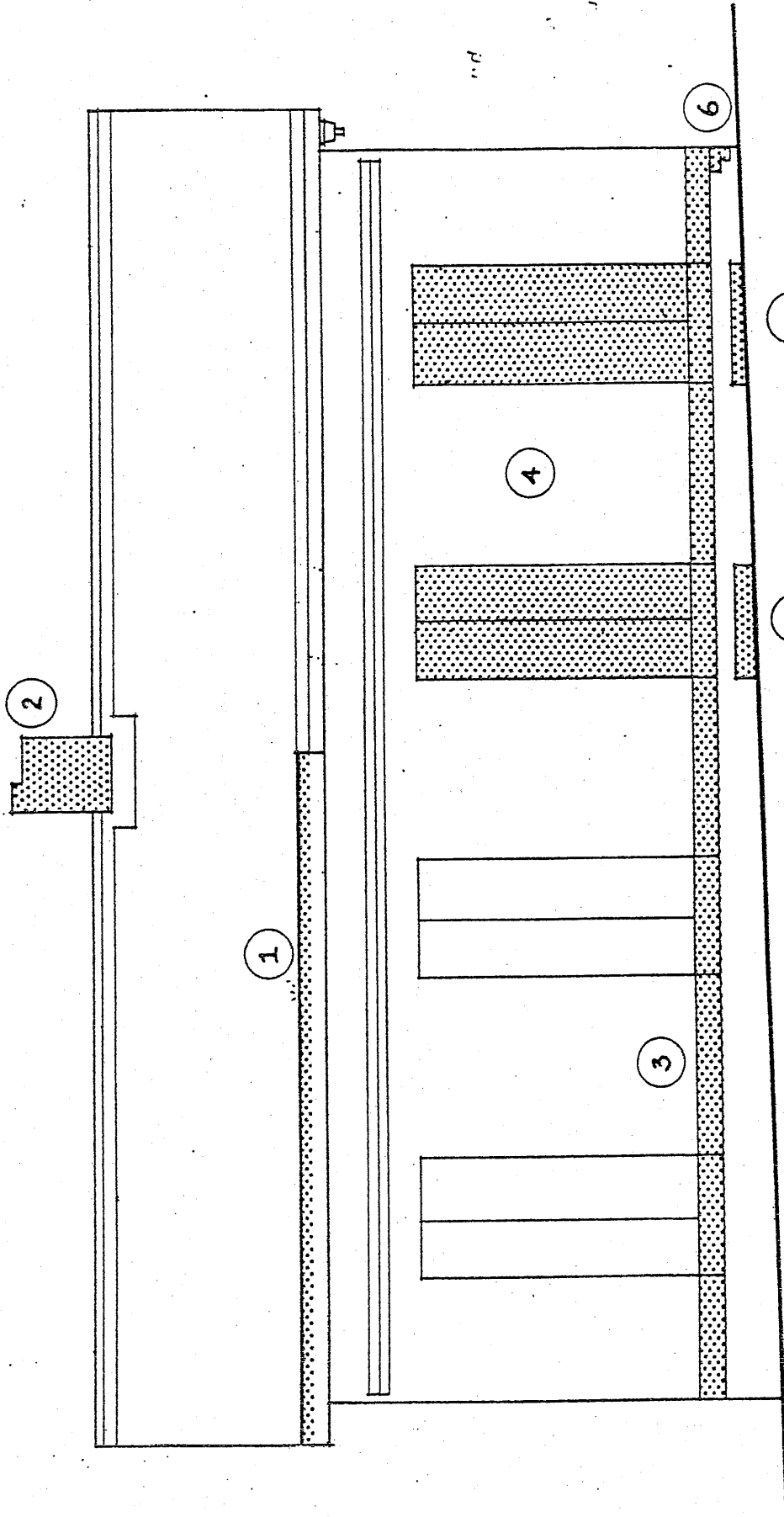
Figure 23
Public Works Department drawing for Warden's Office, Dunolly, 1859
[PBD 2.2, Public Works Department collection, Public Record Office]



Notes

- 1 Plaster and lathes missing, all ceiling plaster damaged in this room
- 2 Timber mounting block survives
- 3 Timber gas lamp mounting block missing but later electric light block survives

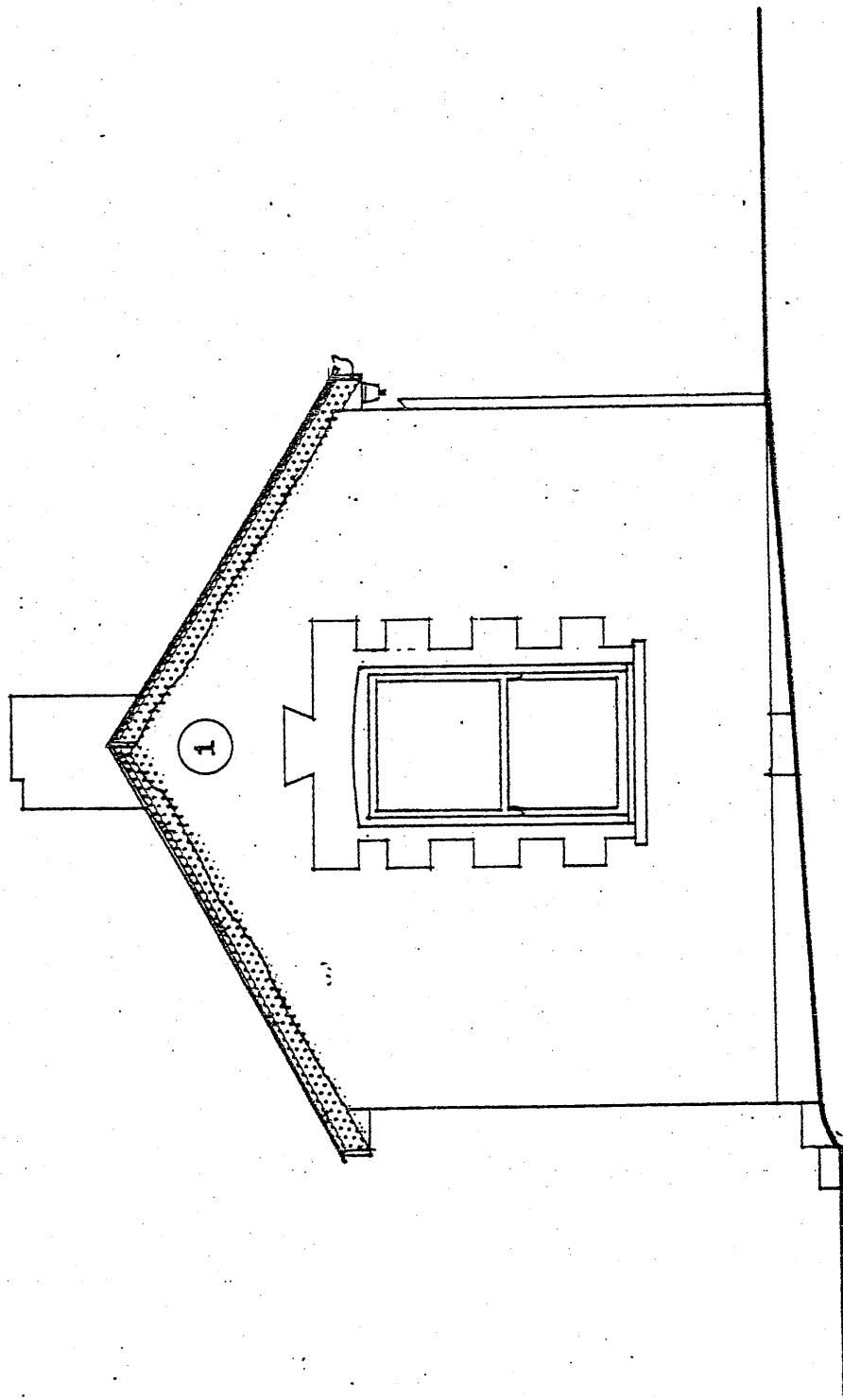
REFLECTED CEILING PLAN



Notes

- 1 Gutter missing
- 2 Bricks missing
- 3 Verandah substructure missing, new brick retaining wall
- 4 Metal shutters removed (one set missing, one set stored in building)
- 5 Basalt steps not original
- 6 Brickwork damaged

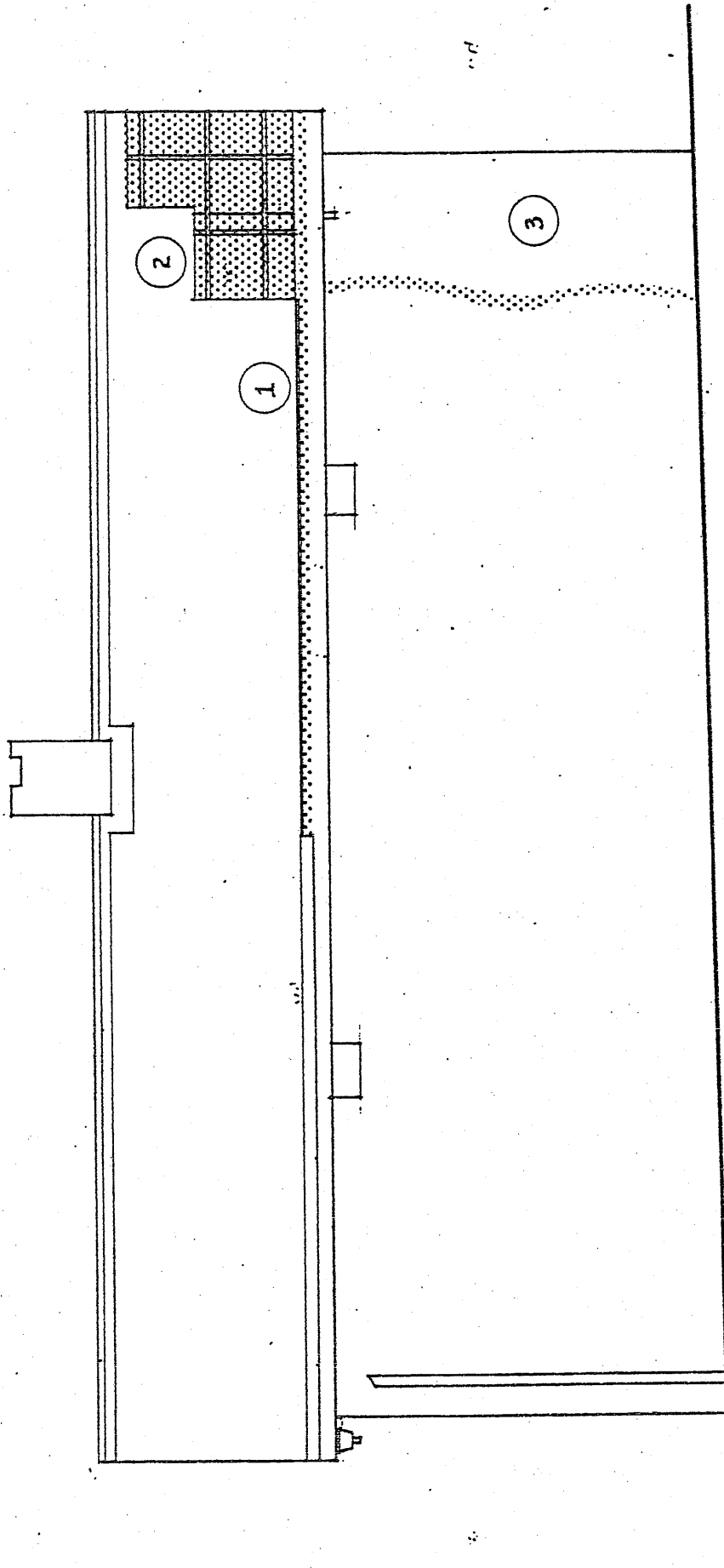
EAST ELEVATION



Notes

- 1 Barge board missing

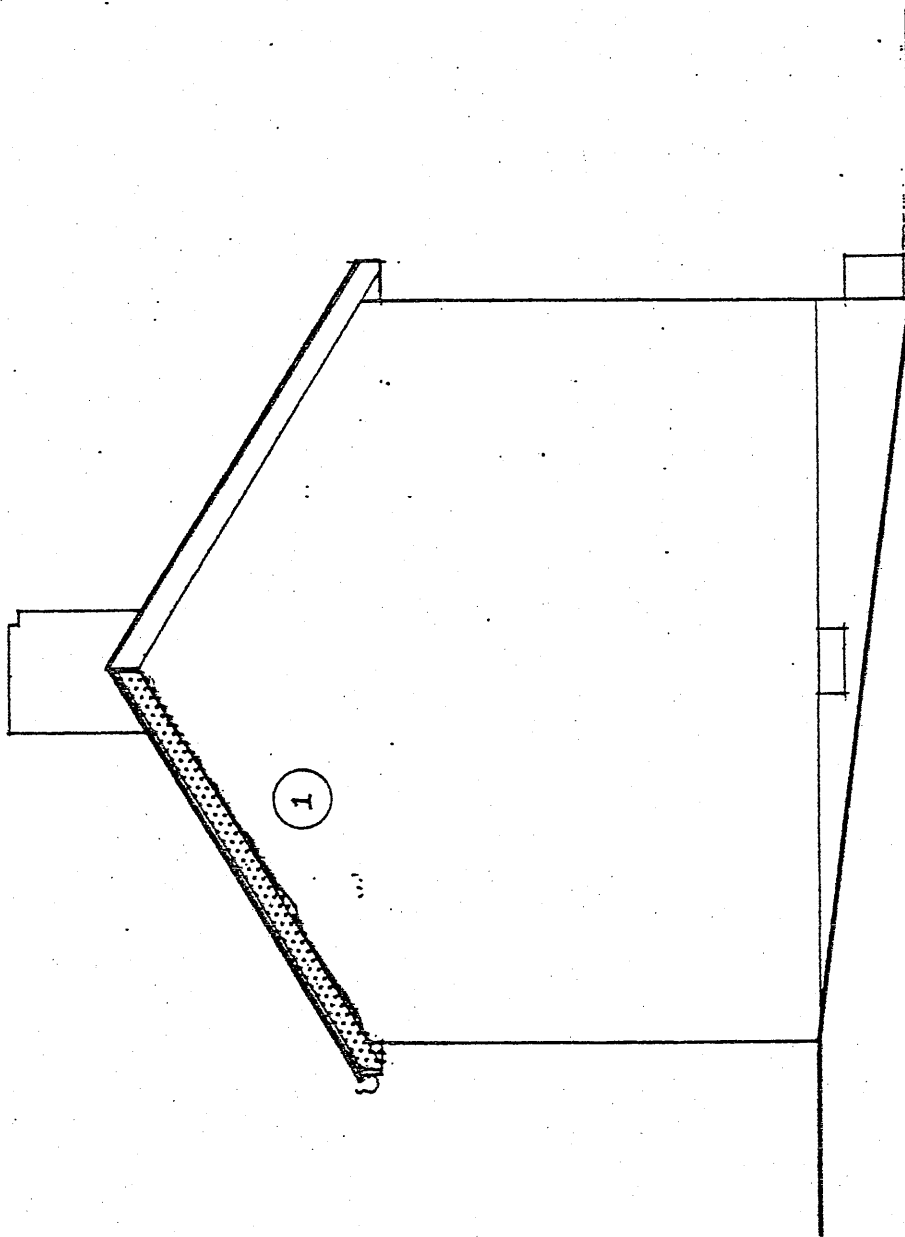
NORTH ELEVATION



Notes

- 1 Gutter missing
- 2 Roof sheeting missing
- 3 Large crack in wall

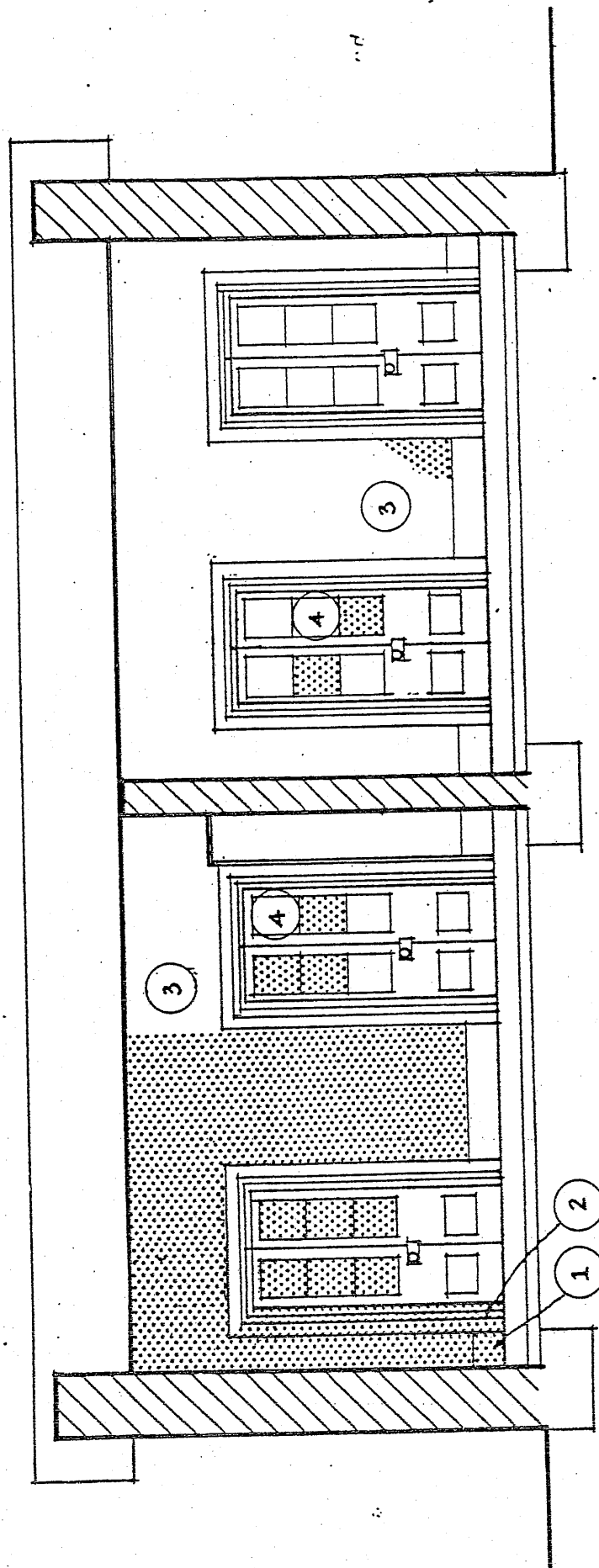
WEST ELEVATION



Notes

- 1 Barge board missing

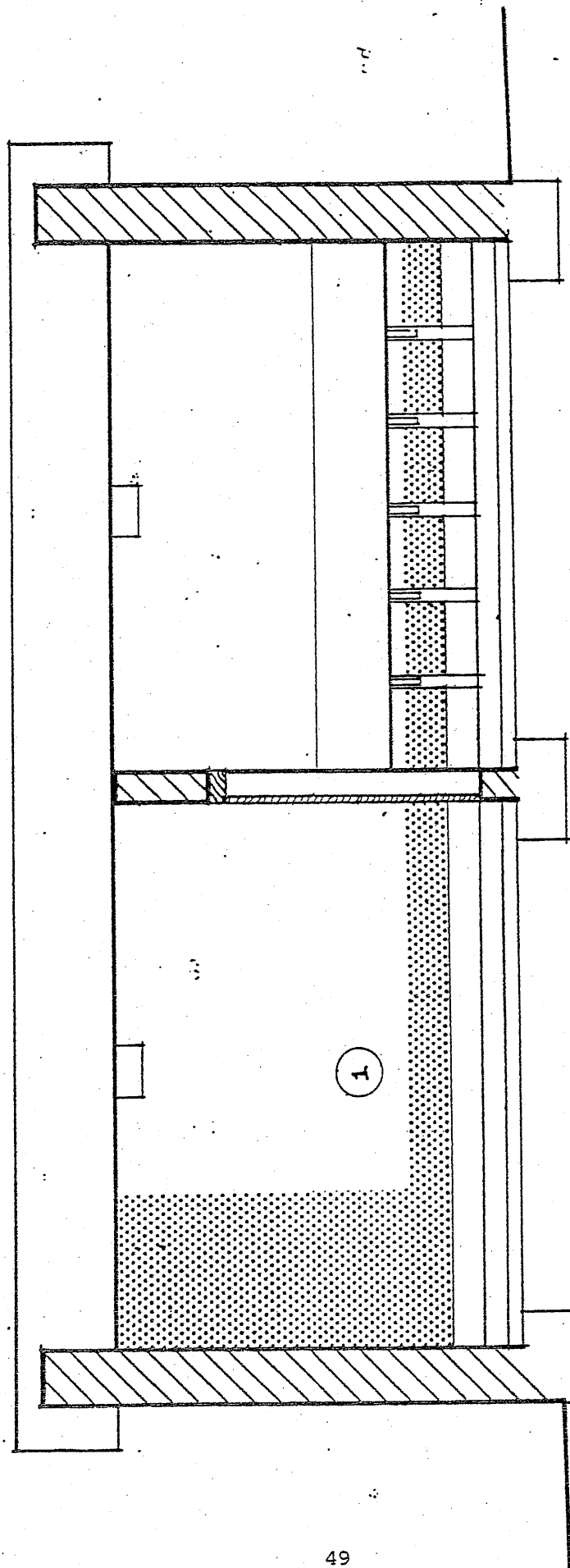
SOUTH ELEVATION



Notes

- 1 Skirting missing
- 2 Architrave detached
- 3 Plaster defective
- 4 Glass missing

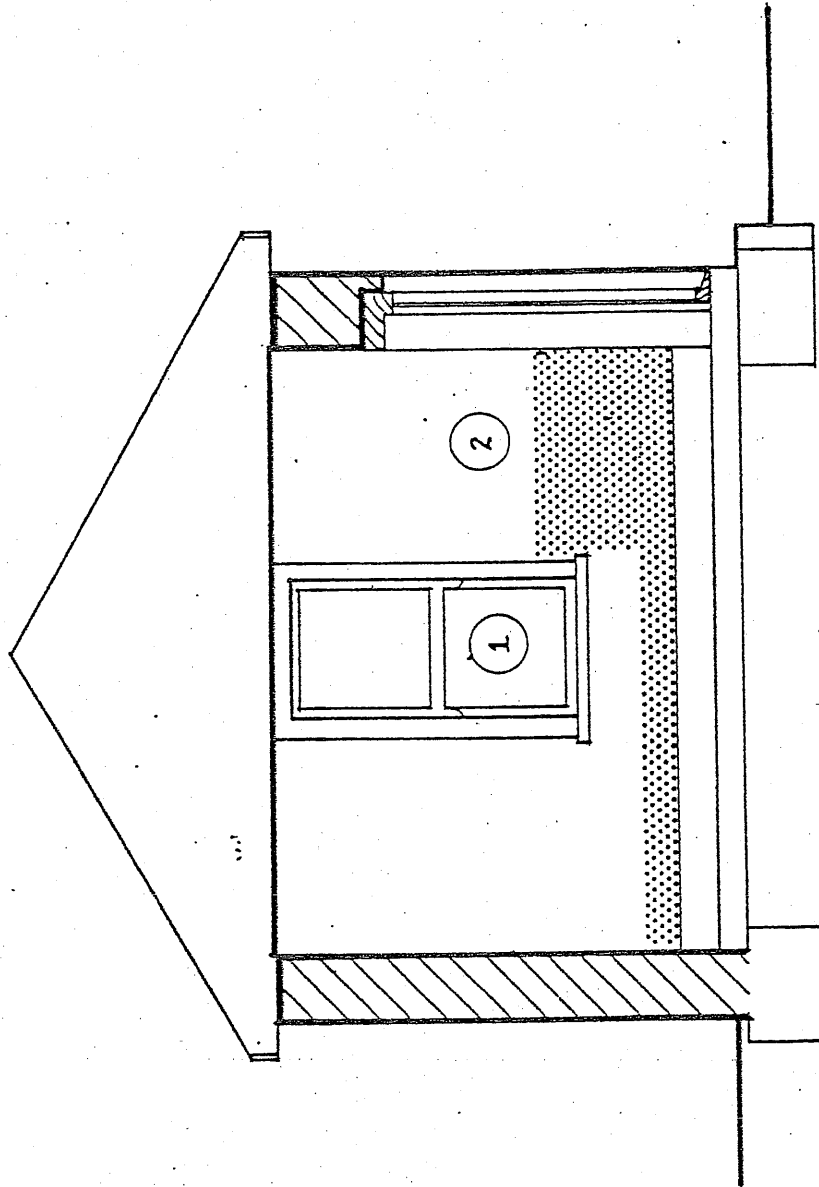
SECTION A-A



Notes

1 Plaster defective

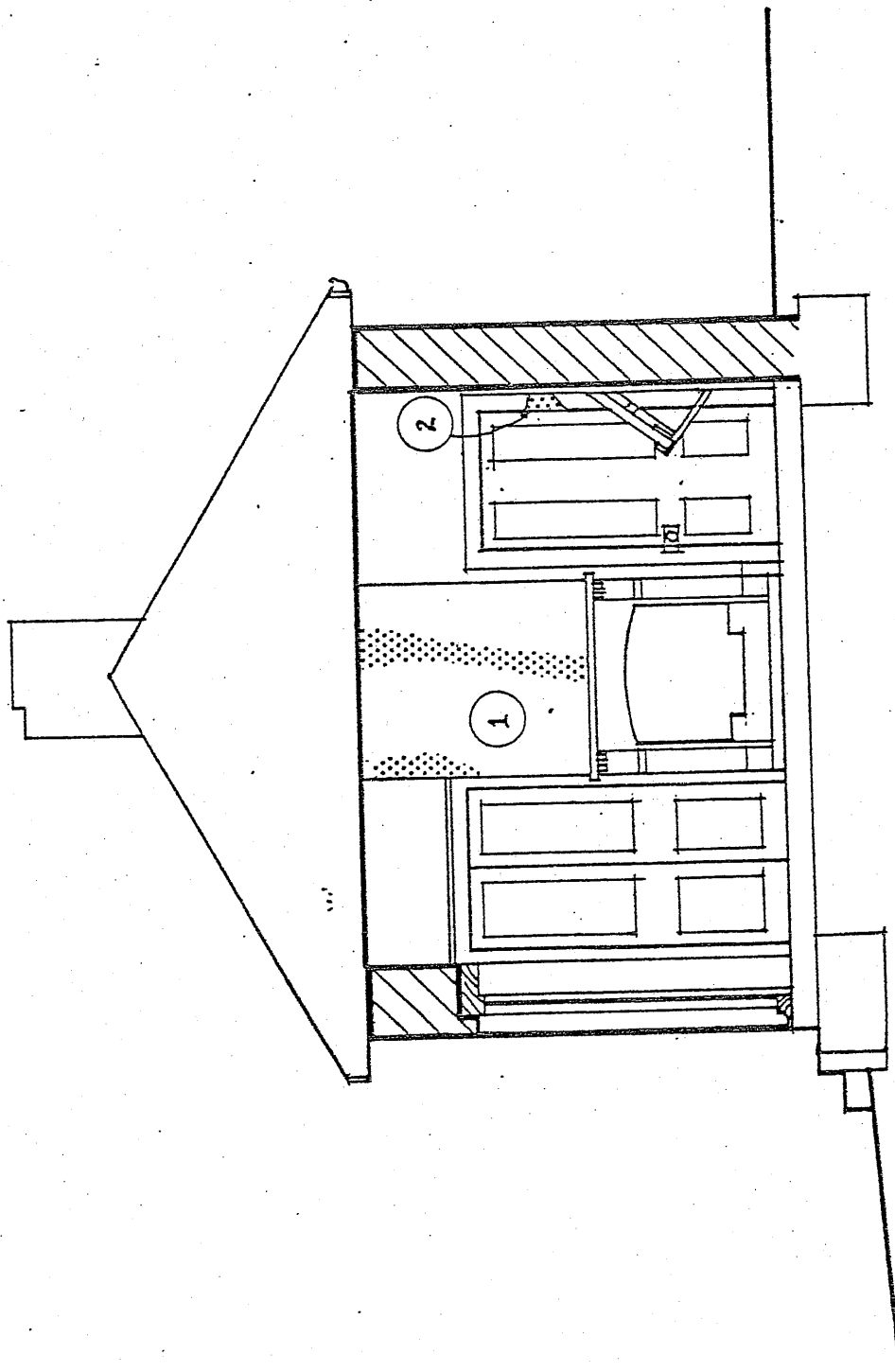
SECTION B-B



Notes

- 1 Glass missing in bottom sash, parting bead missing
- 2 Plaster defective

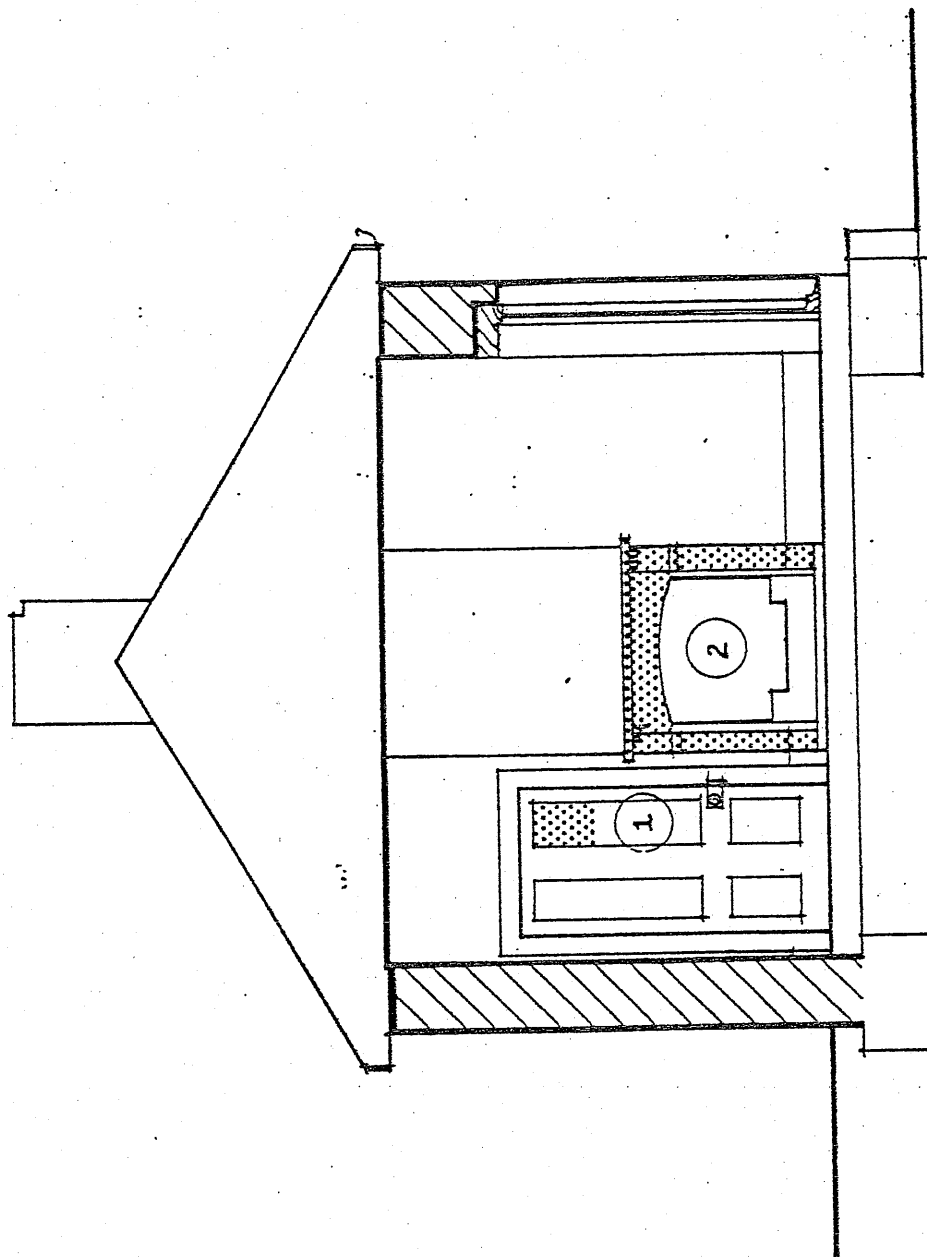
SECTION C-C



Notes

- 1 Plaster defective
- 2 Section of architrave missing

SECTION D-D



Notes

- 1 Door joinery defective
- 2 Mantle detached, bracket removed but stored

SECTION E-E